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SMITH, Chas. 1

THREE TRACTS ON THE CORN-TRADE AND CORN-LAWS:

Viz.

1. A short Essay on the Corn-trade and the Corn-laws, containing, a general relation of the present method of carrying on the Corn-trade, and the Purport of the Laws relating thereto in this Kingdom, first printed in 1758.
2. Considerations on the Laws relating to the Importation and Exportation of Corn, being an inquiry what alteration may be made in them for the benefit of the Public, wrote in the beginning of the year 1759.
3. A Collection of Papers relative to the Price, Exportation, and Importation of Corn, with some Observations and Calculations, shewing what the Nation may be supposed to have gained by giving the Bounty on the Exportation, what the quantity of each sort of Corn annually Consumed, Exported, Imported, and Grown may amount to, and the Proportions they severally bear each to the other.

To which is added,

A SUPPLEMENT.

Containing

Several papers and calculations which tend to explain and confirm what is advanced in the foregoing Tracts.

The SECOND EDITION,
Corrected and Enlarged.

LONDON:

Printed for the AUTHOR, and sold by J. BROTHERTON, at the *Bible* in *Cornhill*.

M.DCC.LXVI.

ERRATA.

IN the Advertiſement fronting page 5, for 1765, read 1766.—p. 23, in the note, l. 2. from the bottom, for *is* r. *are*—p. 58. l. 15, for *has* r. *had*—p. 79, firſt l. in the note, for 14 and 15, r. 16 and 17. p. 83. inſtead of 19*s*. 19*d*. for Duty on Beans, r. 19*s*. 10*d*.—p. 102, by miſtake is marked 10.—p. 104, l. 6. from bottom, for *reaſonable* r. *reaſonably*,—p. 116, l. 9, after 7*d*. add ½.—p. 153, l. 14, from bottom, for *theſe* r. *the*.—p. 205, l. 18. after *but* add by.

GENERAL

PREFACE.

THE publiſhing the ESSAY in 1758, and writing the CONSIDERATIONS in 1759, though the laſt was then communicated only to a few, were the occaſion of many *papers*, relative to Corn, being communicated to the Author, which he had never heard of before; and *thoſe*, as they in general tended to confirm and ſtrengthen many of the facts and obſervations contained in the ſaid Works, induced him to procure as many more as poſſible, and by theſe means he became poſſeſſed of what appeared to him a *valuable Collection*, in that it proved from *facts*, the great propriety and utility of, and benefits that have ariſen from our *Corn-laws*, which are not the work of a day, but were framed by ſlow *degrees*, and are founded on an experience of upwards of *two hundred* years, which elapſed while they were bringing to their preſent ſtate, *viz.* from 1534, 35 H. 8. to 1738, 11 G. 2. ſince when they have not been altered although they have had ſome temporary ſuſpenſions*.

For which reaſons, and as many papers in the Collection appeared too valuable to be loſt, it was reſolved to communicate them to the Public; and, if poſſible, though this ſeemed very difficult, to range them in ſuch a manner as to ſhew their connection, make them intelligible, and, at the ſame time, throw light on each other, and on the two firſt mentioned Tracts, which, in general, were well approved

* See liſt of Statutes, pages 44 and 45.

proved. How far this is done, as well as of the value of the papers themſelves, and of what utility the publiſhing them may be, the Public will judge, on whoſe candour the Author relies for any miſtakes he may have made, and the many repetitions which will be found in the performance; ſome of which are caſual, but much the greater part were made with a view that the Reader might, as much as poſſible, conſtantly have the whole matter he is reading of before him, without being referred; which yet, after all, will be found too frequently the caſe.

Whenever any thing is ſaid relative to the Corn-trade, eſpecially if it contains *propoſals* for making any alteration in the *Corn-laws*, it ſhould be well weighed, and the reaſons given for making the alteration well and maturely conſidered before any regard is paid thereto, for the Corn-trade is of a very comprehenſive nature and very few, if any, are *fully* maſters of the ſubjects, the good management of which is of the *utmoſt* conſequence to the *Public*; beſides, every man is liable to be miſtaken, miſinformed, and miſled, and the Author, after all his care, and the helps he hath been favoured with, is very ſenſible that this may be his own caſe, and therefore, in his attempts to explain our *Corn-laws*, and hinting wherein he thinks they may be improved, hath given his reaſons for every material thing he hath advanced, of which the Reader will judge, whom he begs leave to aſſure, that, in this publication, his principal view is by explaining the Corn-trade and Corn-laws to contribute what little is in his power towards *keeping Corn continually at ſuch a moderate price as may be within the reach of the labourer and induſtrious poor.*

A SHORT

ESSAY

ON THE

CORN TRADE,

AND THE

CORN LAWS.

CONTAINING

A general Relation of the preſent Method of carrying on the Corn-trade, and the Purport of the Laws relating thereto in this Kingdom.

Firſt printed in 1758.

LONDON:

Printed in the YEAR MDCCLXVII.

ESSAY

ON THE

CORN TRADE,

AND THE

CORN LAWS.

THE

PREFACE*.

IT may justly be questioned, whether many of the late Writers, who have communicated their thoughts to the Public concerning the Corn-trade, have not considered the affair in too restrained a light; as also whether the alterations they propose in the method of carrying on this Trade, and the amendments they would make in the Laws relating thereto, would suit any other than particular Places.

It is a quite different thing to make Laws for the regulation of Trade in one particular town, and to make Laws for regulating so considerable a Trade as that of Corn is throughout so large a kingdom as this of Great Britain; *which must be acknowledged by all, who consider how much the annual produce in many places falls short of the general consumption of the inhabitants, whilst in others it exceeds it.*

These considerations have given rise to the following Essay; wherein is laid down a general, but fair relation, in what method the Corn-trade is at present carried on in these kingdoms; together with the Laws relating thereto: and till the nature and method of carrying on this business in general is well understood, it is hardly possible to make Laws for its regulation with any probability of Success.

* This is verbatim as in 1758.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IN this edition ſome paragraphs are added, which are marked thus †; the liſt of the Statutes is continued to 1765, ſeveral notes, references, and a table of contents are added, and the whole is reviſed and corrected by the Author.

A SHORT

ESSAY

ON THE

CORN TRADE,

AND

CORN LAWS.

ALTHOUGH it be the general opinion, that the preſent dearneſs of Corn ariſes principally from the Avarice of the Farmers and iniquity of the Factors, Merchants, Millers, Bakers and Dealers in Corn; yet there is cauſe to believe, that it ariſes chiefly, if not wholly, from a real ſcarcity, occaſioned by the ſhort crops, which for three or four years paſt have been in the weſt and northweſt parts of the kingdom, and from the general ſhortneſs of the crop throughout the whole kingdom in the year 1756. For ſuppoſing the crop of the laſt year 1757 to have been as good as the fine proſpect in the field promiſed, which there is reaſon to doubt, much of it being lighter, by two or three pounds in a Buſhel, than in fine years, from the Blight or Mildew brought

brought on by the dry weather, it would not be ſufficient to reduce the Price much, or ſoon, as little or no old Stock was left remaining, and of courſe a much larger quantity of this year's growth muſt be already conſumed than is uſual at this Time of the year. To confirm theſe obſervations, if we recur to former Times, we ſhall find that in the year 1693 Wheat roſe from 2l. 6s. to 3l. 7s. per quarter, and was not much under that price, except in 1695, when it was 2l. 13s. till 1700, when it came down to 40s. In 1709 Wheat roſe from 2l. 1s. 6d. to 3l. 18s. 6d. at which Price, within ſixpence, it continued the next year, and was not ſo low as 40s. till 1718. In 1740 Wheat roſe to 2l. 15s. from 1l. 17s. 6d. and though the clamour was at that time as much againſt Farmers, &c. as it now is, and the harveſt of 1741 was good, both as to quantity and quality, yet Wheat was at 2l. 7s. throughout that year; though in 1742 it came down to 1l. 12s. and after that continued declining, and was cheap to 1745.

But how reaſonable ſoever this may ſeem, yet it muſt be owned that the general opinion, even amongſt many perſons of rank and character, appears to be on the oppoſite ſide of the queſtion. The dearneſs of Corn is felt; and how to bring the Corn-trade under ſuch regulations for the future, as to prevent the like diſtreſs hereafter, is under the conſideration of the Parliament. And we may juſtly expect from the integrity and abilities of the honourable perſons to whom this affair is committed, that the buſineſs of the Corn-trade will be thoroughly examined, from the firſt throwing of the ſeed into the ground, to the Conſumption of the product in bread and drink

drink, or the Exportation of ſuch part of it as may at any time be conveniently ſpared; as alſo that the ſeveral Laws which, ſince *Edward* VI. have been made in relation thereto, with the good or bad effects they have had, and wherein and why the expectations of them have been anſwered or failed, will be carefully enquired into and examined, and the Laws themſelves in conſequence thereof be either confirmed or *amended.**

Corn is to be conſidered both as a Food and Merchandiſe. The providing it either by growing or importing, its preſervation for uſe or ſale, the preparation of it for Food by grinding and baking, the fixing, or rather declaring, the price of bread, and what weight the ſame ſhould be of according to the price of Corn, are particulars which have at all times, and in all places, been more or leſs the care of the Legiſlature, and fallen under the direction of the Civil *Magiſtrate* ||. The Parliaments of this kingdom, as appears by the Statute-book, have frequently had this matter under their conſideration, and generally treated it in the view we have mentioned above, both as Food and *Merchandiſe*‡. In almoſt every Statute which attempts any regulation in this Trade, we may viſibly diſcern they have endeavoured to order it ſo, that, while they were guarding againſt any thing which might tend to diſtreſs the poor, Tillage ſhould not be diſcouraged.

* No alteration was made.

|| See an account of the care taken in moſt civilized nations, &c. by the Rev. *Rich. Onely*, ſold by *Hawkins*, 1758.

‡ The Author of *Les Interêts de la France* thinks it was never ſeen in this light till 1660, ſee Supp. chap. 2. ſec. 3. but the Statutes prove the contrary.

diſcouraged. To this End they have generally fixed the prices at which all perſons might buy and lay up Corn, or export it; and ſeem to have endeavoured, by all poſſible means, to make the People ſee it in the ſame light; having in the ſpace of ſeventy-nine years, beginning with 1548, the 5th of *Edward* VI. and ending with 1627, the 3d of *Charles* I. paſſed *eight* ſeveral Acts, as may be ſeen in the liſt at the end of this treatiſe, in which they have encreaſed the Exportation-price from 6s. 8d. equal to 20s. of our Money, to 32s. the quarter. How this Trade was managed during the Civil War doth not appear. But on the reſtoration, in 1660, the Exportation-price was immediately ſet at 40s. the quarter. In 1663, only three years after, it was carried to 48s. By this law, it was enacted, that when Wheat doth not exceed that price, all and every perſon may buy, lay up and keep the ſame, and ſell it again, under ſuch regulations as by the ſaid Act are laid down: which Act appears to have anſwered the intentions of the Legiſlature, as Wheat, which for 20 years before, viz. from 1646 to 1666, had been on the average 2l. 17s. 5d. $\frac{1}{2}$ per quarter, was for 20 years after, viz. from 1666 to 1686 only 2l. 6s. 3d. per quarter on the average: and this was a virtual repeal of the Acts 5 and 6 of *Edward* VI. and 5 *Elizabeth*, ſo far at leaſt as they regard Licenſing till Wheat is 48s. for, doubtleſs, upon paſſing this Act, many engaged in the Corn-trade, who were not qualified to take out Licenſes by the former Statutes, and if at any time it happened that out of, or between the quarter-ſeſſions, Wheat came to exceed 48s. when none could be licenſed, it could not be ſuppoſed that all buying and ſelling

Corn

Corn ſhould ceaſe till Licenſes could be granted; nor would it be right to oblige ſuch, who were not *qualified* † to take Licences by the former acts, and yet had legally, while Wheat was under 48s. by the authority and under the protection of this act, engaged their fortunes in this trade, immediately to leave off; and where would others be found, who had ſufficient knowledge, or were diſpoſed and ready to enter into this trade, which any might again reſume on the fall of the prices of Grain.

It might be the intent of the propoſers, or makers of this Law, 15 *Car.* II. to leave the Corn-trade, as it hath in effect been ever ſince, *free and open* ‡, and ſo much did the deſire of making Corn a Merchandize then prevail, that in the year 1670 an act was paſſed allowing Wheat to be exported even after it exceeded 48s. paying the Cuſtom; from which Time till 1688 the average price of Wheat was 2l. 6s. a quarter; in which year, nevertheleſs, an act was paſſed, repealing all Cuſtom, and giving a Bounty of 5s. per quarter on exportation, * till it ſhould exceed 48s. the quarter; after which, till 1693, Wheat, on the average, was 36s. 3d. per quarter only; but growing and continuing dearer till 1698, the Exportation was forbid for one year, and then, for 9 months, the Bounty was ſuſpended; from the expiration of which term, till 1709, Wheat continued cheap, the average price being 1l. 14s. 5d. per quarter; but in that year it roſe to 3l. 18s. 6d. per quarter, and expor-

† *i. e.* Is or hath been married, an houſeholder, and thirty years of age. See Stat. 5 El. c. 12. ſec. 4 and 5.

‡ See Supp. ch. 2. ſec. 8. how free and open the French have laid the Corn-trade with them.

* In Engliſh Ships.

tation was again prohibited for one year; yet Wheat was never under 40s. till 1718; from which time, till 1725, it continued under that price; from 1725 to 1730 it was on the average 2l. 7s. 8d. and in the year 1729 an act was passed regarding the Importation, as also in 1732, and the method of enquiring into the price, in order to fix the Duty on Importation, was settled. From 1729 to 1740 the price was 1l. 15s. 7d. per quarter; in which year the price was 2l. 15s. and the Exportation again prohibited for one year. It continued at 2l. 7s. the following year, but from thence to 1756 the price was 1l. 14s. 3d. In the latter end of that year, and the beginning of 1757, growing excessive dear, and great disturbances arising under pretence of the high price, the Parliament again took the affair into consideration, and passed one act to stop the *Distillery**, another to prohibit for a year the *Exportation***, and a third to allow the *Importation* Duty free, for a time certain‡; in all which acts, such necessary clauses were inserted as prove they never forgot or intended to oppress the Farmer, whilst they endeavoured to relieve the Poor.

But Corn is still dear, and the discontent near the same, and how far the Farmer, and others concerned in the Corn-trade, are or may be the cause thereof, and guilty of ill-practices, or whether all or any of them are in fault, or in any degree to blame, may in some measure be determined by reflecting on the nature of that Trade, and the manner in which each branch

* 30 G. 2. c. 10. which was by several other acts continued to 21 Ap. 1760.

** 30 G. 2. c. 1. continued to 25 Mar. 1759.

‡ 30 G. 2. c. 7. to the 24 Aug. 1757.

branch thereof is tranſacted, and the means made uſe of with us to provide, preſerve and prepare Corn for Food: and perhaps what follows may be of ſome uſe to that end.

In regard to the procuring a ſufficient PROVISION of our own Growth, or by Importation; the Legiſlature ſeems to have taken the following care.

Firſt, as much as poſſible by encouraging the Farmer to till ſo much land, that our own Growth may be ſufficient, and, in caſe it ſhould exceed the conſumption, by making proviſion for a bounty to be paid in order to export the ſurplus, whereby the Farmer's fears of loſs, in that caſe, are removed, or rather prevented.

Secondly, by a law impowering the Magiſtrates every ſix or three months to allow of the Importation for ſix or three months to come, on a very moderate duty, after Wheat exceeds 53s. 4d. the quarter, and by the late act, for a time certain, duty free; in all which, as was before obſerved, the intereſt of the Farmer was remembered as well as the neceſſities of the Poor.

And here it may not be amiſs to conſider more at large the circumſtances, and general method of marketing, of our preſent Farmers, or Growers of Corn, and the Merchants, Factors, and others, concerned in this Trade.

Now the Farmers may be divided into four claſſes, *viz.* the poor Farmer, the Farmer in moderate circumſtances, the Farmer in good circumſtances, and the rich Farmer.

1. The poor Farmers, who are very numerous, with great difficulty and labour, and ſeldom without ſome credit, as well from the ſhopkeepers, as their

landlord, are able to ſubſiſt themſelves and families till after harveſt, and their crops are generally all threſhed, ſold and gone before Chriſtmas, or by the Time their lands are in order and the ſeed put into the ground for the next year's crop.

2. The Farmers in moderate circumſtances, whoſe neceſſities, nevertheleſs, are ſuch, that, as each Seed-time, every Quarter, and Fair come round, they are obliged to raiſe money to defray the expence, pay rent, or buy in live ſtock, and if they have any Corn left in *May* they think themſelves well off.

3. The Farmers in good circumſtances, who generally have it in their power, after ſeeding their lands, paying rent, purchaſing live ſtock, and paying all other expences through the year, to reſerve a few loads of Wheat to ſell in, or after harveſt, in order to bear the expence thereof, and in expectation, if the Seaſon ſhould prove bad, to make a better price than before harveſt.

4. The rich Farmers, who are in a capacity, as to Fortune, to keep the whole, or the greateſt part of their Crops, the year over, ſpeculate on the markets, threſh out and ſell when they like the price. Theſe in ſome meaſure ſerve at their own private expence the ſame purpoſe as public Magazines, and without many ill Conſequences which might attend ſuch *Magazines**, keeping a quantity of Corn always in the nation, and the Markets from being unreaſonably dear; and, whatever may be thought, theſe men ſcarcely ever have it in their power, however in their will, to diſtreſs the Poor; for their numbers are but ſmall, comparatively ſpeaking, and the

* See Supp. ch. the firſt throughout.

the waſte made by vermin makes their expence in keeping it very great, and frequently forces them to market ſooner, than they might otherwiſe intend to go.

The next thing to be conſidered is the PRESERVATION of Corn when grown, both for uſe and ſale, and in this regard is to be had both to quantity and quality. Such quantity ſhould be always in the nation as will be ſufficient for the conſumption of the current year, and alſo to ſupply any accidental deficiency in the Crop; and this muſt be kept, either in public Magazines, or private hands. How far the Farmers keep, or can keep, may be obſerved from the account of their uſual method of Trade, as before related, from which it may be gathered that the ſale in the fore part of the year, or immediately after harveſt, is more than the conſumption, and if the exceſs is not then laid up in Granaries, the ſame would be in all probability exported, and Corn before the next harveſt become ſcarce, and conſequently *dear**. But this is provided for and prevented by act 15 *Car.* II. which enables, or impowers, all Perſons to buy, and lay it up; in conſequence of which many ſubſiſt by ſtoring up this exceſs at their own riſque, and the Public, or Legiſlature, have ſeldom any neceſſity to take any care about it, and were never yet, at leaſt ſince this act paſſed, obliged to form Magazines, which, if ever they ſhould be obliged

* This uſed to be the caſe before the Bounty was given, and our forefathers have ſometimes bought their own Corn again; and the People of Berne at this day, notwithſtanding their Magazines, are often reduced to the ſame neceſſity. See the Avoyer's letter, ſupp. chap. the firſt.

obliged to do, might become a very great diſcouragement to tillage, and the Corn-trade, and in the end make Corn dearer than before; as the Farmer, ſeeing large quantities collected together in one view, might imagine Corn would never bear a price for the future, and the fear of the market being ſpoiled by the Magazines being opened would prevent all private perſons from keeping a ſufficient quantity by them, to carry on their buſineſs with profit, and conſequently the Trade would decline, or be in a manner left off, which might be attended with many other ill conſequences, at preſent impoſſible to be known or foreſeen. Neither can that care be taken to preſerve the Corn from corruption, decay, or being diminiſhed or deſtroyed by vermin, in ſuch public Magazines, as in private Hands, and conſequently the goodneſs of the quality cannot be ſo well preſerved; for they will ſeldom be emptied more than once a year, and all, who know the Corn-trade, know how difficult it is in this climate to preſerve Corn ſweet, after it is out of the ſtraw, for the whole year round.

But in private Hands, though the quantity may be, and generally is, as large as it would be in public Magazines, yet it is always circulating, by many ſhifted once a month, and by ſcarcely any leſs than three times a year; in conſequence of which the Corn hath no time to decay, and the vermin, ſuch as Rats and Mice, are too well watched to be permitted to deſtroy it; for was the private trader to ſuffer them to make much waſte, or the good quality of but a ſmall part of what he circulates in the year to be ſpoiled, by the natural decay of the Corn, which is very apt to heat, and thereby introduce an innumerable

innumerable army of Worms, or Weavils, it might bid fair to wipe off all his profits for that time.

The PREPARATION of the Corn for food, by grinding and baking, is the next conſideration: in regard to both which our Parliaments have very properly and judiciouſly interfered; where Corn is ground for hire, puniſhing the Miller if he takes more than his juſt due for toll, though the grinding being now in moſt Places paid for in money, theſe Laws are but little known; and where Bread is baked for ſale, fixing the aſſize, or weight of the penny and other loaves, according to the price of the Grain, Meal, or Flour, of which the ſame is made, having regard to the ſort or fineneſs of the bread, by which the Poor are, or ought to be, ſatisfied; that the Baker hath *only* a reaſonable Allowance; and he hath no right to expect more, and if he attempts any fraud the Magiſtrate has it in his Power to puniſh him for the ſame.

It were hard to ſay which of theſe Trades lies under the worſt imputations at preſent; ſome of them are of a ſerious nature, many trifling, and many contrary to common ſenſe. What truth there is in any of them, doubtleſs, the Parliament will enquire, and cauſe thoſe to be properly puniſhed who have offended againſt any Law now in being, and provide ſuch *Laws** as may ſeem proper to prevent ſuch male-practices in both Trades for the future, as the preſent Laws will not reach.

What

* An act for regulating the Bakers, &c. was paſſed, viz. 31 G. 2. c. 9. but this chiefly reſpecting only places where the Aſſize ſhall be ſet; another act, viz. 3 G. 3. c. xi. was paſſed to regulate them where the Aſſize ſhall not be ſet.

What has been already ſaid might ſerve to give a general idea of the Corn-trade; yet it may not be improper to be a little more particular in regard to the method in which it is carried on by Merchants and Factors, Meal-men and Meal-factors, Millers and Bakers.

Now, Corn may be conſidered as a Merchandize, not only in regard of the Exportation to, and Importation of it from, foreign parts, but alſo in regard to the buying and tranſporting it from one part of the ſame Kingdom to another; ſince in many parts much more is grown than the inhabitants can conſume, and in many others enough is not grown for the uſe of the people; and Merchants and Factors are employed in this buſineſs, either buying on their own accounts, or by commiſſion, as opportunity offers. And this muſt always have been the caſe, as the members of Cities and large Towns, being employed about other affairs, and often at a great diſtance from the growing Counties, can neither have had leiſure nor opportunity to fetch it themſelves; and thoſe Purveyors, Laders, Badgers, Kidders, and Carriers, mentioned in the old Statutes, muſt have been men employed in the ſame ſort of Buſineſs as our preſent Merchants and Factors are; nor was the Statute, 5 and 6 *Edward* VI. made to give riſe to, but to regulate, their method of Trade, ſome evil practices having crept in among them, which were rather increaſed by that Law than removed, as appears by 5 *Eliz.* all which regulations ſeem to have been rendered uſeleſs, or rather repealed by Statute 15 *Car.* II. as was before

before obſerved, and the Corn-trade left in a manner free.

It is not to be ſuppoſed that theſe Merchants and Factors are averſe to large profits, or that they will not get what they can for their trouble; but their number ſeems too great for them ever to combine, by refuſing to ſell at reaſonable prices, to oppreſs the People. For, as the commodity they deal in is periſhable, ſhould they ever have ſuch thoughts, they might loſe more by the Corn growing worſe, than gain by the contrivance, before they could attain their ends. I ſay not that it is impoſſible, that attempts of this kind may be ſometimes made in particular places, but then they will generally turn out to the loſs of ſuch Schemers, whilſt, the poſt is regular, and the Corn-trade continues free; for intereſt never ſleeps, and every advance of price is quickly known to all dealers, and a deſire of ſharing in the profit will ſoon overſtock the market.

Mealmen and Mealfactors are employed in Meal and Flour, as Merchants and Factors are in Corn, and often have Mills of their own, tho' they ſometimes hire; but in the laſt caſe the Miller is but a very inconſiderable perſon, barely living when Corn is in plenty round his mill, and at other times being greatly diſtreſſed; which hath been the reaſon that many of them, who could raiſe a capital, have engaged in the Meal and Flour-trades, adding to their old occupation thoſe of Mealmen, and Meal-factors.

Having mentioned the word Capital, it may not be improper to obſerve, that to carry on every branch of the Corn and Flour-trades, a much larger ſum of money is required than may commonly be imagined,

but will eaſily be believed, when it is remembered, that the whole is paid for in preſent money, and though ſome part may be returned in a month, yet the whole, by thoſe who have any conſiderable trade, is not returned more than three or four times in a year; and he that cannot in plentiful markets lay in a ſtock, but is obliged to buy in proportion to his ſales in ſhort markets, will find his trade turn out to little account.

The following general Calculation may ſerve to illuſtrate this ſtill more. Suppoſe the whole number of the people to be ſix millions, and that they each eat one quarter of Bread-corn yearly of thirty ſhillings value; that they each drink the produce of four buſhels, in the ſame time, of the value of ten ſhillings; that the whole quantity of Oats, Beans and other Corn, given to and conſumed by Horſes, Hogs, Oxen, other Cattle and Poultry, in the ſame time, is equal in number of quarters to half the quantity conſumed in Bread only; each quarter of which may be valued on the average at ſixteen ſhillings: And laſtly, ſuppoſe the annual quantity exported, though this ſeems moſt liable to be doubted, is equal in value to one ſixteenth part of the home conſumption, and that the account ſtands thus viz. *

	Quarters	£.	s.	d.
Bread Corn — — —	6,000,000 at 30s. —	9,000,000	0	0
Corn made into Drink —	3,000,000 at 20s. —	3,000,000	0	0
Oats, &c. for Cattle & Poultry	3,000,000 at 16s. —	2,400,000	0	0
Total of the Home Conſumption, Value		£. 14,400,000	0	0
Add the Value of $\frac{1}{16}$ thereof for the Export		£. 900,000	0	0
Total Value of Corn conſumed and exported		£. 15,300,000	0	0
Suppoſe the Money returned 4 Times a Year, $\frac{1}{4}$ is		£. 3,825,000	0	0

Now

* See other calculations, ſupp. ch. 5. ſec. 26.

Now let us conſider, that though ſome few concerned in the Export may have larger dealings, yet, he is reckoned no ſmall Trader who returns one hundred quarters weekly, and multitudes do not return forty quarters in that time; and at the ſame time let us reflect on the number of perſons, who muſt be employed in the Corn-trade, to which may be added the Farmers and Growers, who probably are ten times more in number than the others, and it may then be eaſy to judge how far it may be likely they ſhould all combine to inhance the price, more than the ſmallneſs of the quantity may require; as the leaſt of them all, in ſuch caſes, who ſhould ſell through fear, neceſſity, or inclination, would break the knot. It is true, an opinion or prepoſſeſſion that things are ſcarce may ſometimes accidentally run through the body, and raiſe the *price**, but nothing but a real ſcarcity can ſupport it; and though perhaps, the ſteadineſs in the price of Corn may be deemed a certain proof of its being in plenty; yet this ſteadineſs may, in a great meaſure, be preſerved, if not ſometimes procured, by the Magiſtrates, as will be explained below.

And here it may not be amiſs to take notice, how much the generality of people differ in opinion, in regard to the whole quantity *grown*‡, and the proportion which the annual produce of Corn in this kingdom bears to the conſumption, or rather what the latter bears to the former; it being very common to hear men of good capacities and underſtanding aſſert, that we commonly grow enough in one year

* See Supp. ch. 2. ſec. 16.
‡ See Supp. ch. 5. ſec. 26.

to ſerve two, often three, nay ſome do not ſcruple to advance, that in one good year we grow enough to ſerve ſeven years. In ſome particular pariſhes this poſſibly may be true, but it is very far from being the caſe throughout the whole kingdom. Let us only ſuppoſe we grow enough to ſerve fifteen months. Now, to make the matter plain, we ſay, that in twelve months we conſume twelve quarters, and we ſuppoſe, that the Export and Diſtiller together take off one quarter and half more, which is beyond the truth; in this caſe the whole, uſed and exported, will amount to thirteen months and a half, and we have one month and a half left; which will in ten years amount to twelve millions of quarters, and be worth as many pounds at leaſt, even ſuppoſing our account in regard to the conſumption as above to exceed the truth one ſixth part. Now, we had ten as good years as ever were known in ſucceſſion from 1741 to 1751; nay, if the common opinion is right, we have had ſixteen. But where was the Corn ſeen in 1751? Or what is become of it now? Let us reflect on the appearance of ſtacks and fulneſs of barns after harveſt in every year, and then ſay where ſuch a quantity could lie concealed, either in the ſtraw or out. It could not be hid. Corn, even, when threſhed, is a very bulky commodity, and requires much room to be properly preſerved; and when it lately happened that a great quantity of Wheat was imported into *London* at once, which could not be above *forty** thouſand quarters, the whole

* The accounts having been ſince made up, it appears to have been 79,610 qrs. 7 b. and that the whole was 130,343.

whole Importation not amounting to ſeventy, and the Merchants, who could not meet with ſales, were obliged to lay it up, they found it extremely difficult to get ſufficient granaries for that purpoſe; and yet a Gentleman in appearance took the liberty to ſay, and that too in a public Inn, that, of his own knowledge, one Man had engroſſed and laid up Wheat enough to ſerve the City of *London* and Suburbs three months; which is at leaſt 150,000 quarters, and was worth at that time near £.400,000. So apt are Men to talk freely of what they have ſo little knowledge.

The forementioned calculations are excluſive of the ſeed, which is at leaſt equal to one tenth part of the growth, and, almoſt every year, whilſt it is putting into the ground, occaſions ſome ſmall riſe in the markets; and the mouths of the clamorous are then open againſt the Engroſſers; but they don't conſider, that, at that time, the demand is more than double to what it is at other times; neither need the quantity uſed for ſeed be taken notice of, when we conſider how much more the annual produce is leſſened by a failure in the Crop, of only one ſixth part, than is taken off, on an average, by both Diſtiller and Exporter.

In the firſt calculation we ſuppoſed the quantity uſed by the Diſtiller to be comprehended in that uſed for drink, and in the ſame account the Export is reckoned at only one ſixteenth of the conſumption.

130,343 qrs. 2 b. but this argument will ſtill hold good, 80,000 qrs. is but a ſmall part of the whole annual conſumption.

tion. In the laſt we reckoned both together to amount to one eighth of the conſumption. Both theſe eſtimations were ſo made in order to give the greater face of probability to the argument.

Now, ſuppoſe the annual produce of an acre in common, beſides ſeed for the next year, is three quarters of Wheat, and that one eighth, in common, is taken off by the Diſtiller and Exporter, that is, three buſhels; and then ſuppoſe the Crops fall ſhort one ſixth part, amounting to four buſhels; by this means there will be a diminution of one third more than the whole quantity taken off by the Diſtiller and Exporter, on the average, which, perhaps, may not have been enough conſidered.

Let us make one ſhort reflection, and then return to our ſubject. The Exporter and Diſtiller, whether they take off one eighth, or only one ſixteenth of the produce, are large cuſtomers, and give great encouragement to Tillage; for whatever may be thought to the contrary, the quantity ſown will ever bear a proportion to the demand; and if one eighth, or one ſixteenth, of the demand is taken away, the Farmer finding his ſtock too large, will contrive to leſſen it, by growing leſs; as, on the contrary, he will endeavour to grow more, when the demand increaſes; and for this reaſon in dear years, the demand being, at leaſt in appearance, increaſed, a much larger quantity is always ſown; and though this for the preſent ſtill helps to increaſe the ſcarcity, it nevertheleſs makes proviſion for greater plenty the enſuing year. The quantity of Corn,

Corn in plentiful years, exported and diſtilled, * may be compared to the expences of a Man of fortune in diverſions and amuſements, for which he takes care to provide the proper funds, as well as for neceſſaries; but theſe increaſing, he is content to forego his pleaſures, and applies what was provided for them, to ſupply his wants, and by that means finds comfort, when otherwiſe he would have been in diſtreſs.

But to return to our ſubject.

The method in which Bakers carry on their trade is different, according to their different ſituations. Many, in Country places, buy all in Corn, and have it ground, either on hire, or at Mills of their own: Some buy only part in Corn, and part in Flour, or Meal, as opportunity offers; whilſt others buy all they uſe, in *London* more particularly, in Flour of the Mealmen, or Mealfactors; and theſe laſt are moſt capable to make good bread for a conſtancy; for the Mealmen buying larger quantities, and the Mealfactors having many ſorts to ſell, they ſcarcely ever uſe the Flour of one ſort of Wheat alone; and the advantage this gives them is inconceivable; for a number of ſorts, judiciouſly mixed, by the mutual aſſiſtance of their different qualities, ariſing

* If theſe reflections are right, neither Exporter or Diſtiller ſhould be too much diſcouraged, and the Diſtiller, while ſpirits are uſed, ſhould have the preference in point of policy; ſince, it is ſaid, he pays ſixteen ſhillings and upwards for liberty to uſe what the Exporter hath large ſums for taking away.—Now by the act 33 G. 2. c. 9. the duties on ſpirits is ſo increaſed as to amount to above *three pounds per quarter* on all Corn diſtilled.

ariſing from the various ſoils on which they grow, will do much better than almoſt any one ſort alone. Whereas the Baker, who buys Corn for himſelf, is always obliged to uſe what he hath bought, tho' his judgment may have deceived him in the buying, or the market may not have enabled him to provide himſelf with ſuch in quality as he may have deſired, or having been bought good, it may be by accident debaſed in grinding, each of which circumſtances will at different times be the caſe; and when any of them happen to the Mealman, he will have better opportunities of helping himſelf, by ſelling the Meal for a coarſer uſe.

When the Bakers have provided the Wheat, Meal, or Flour to make Bread, they are, or may be, bound to make it of ſuch weight, or ſell it at ſuch price as the Magiſtrates ſhall order, who are authoriſed by Law to ſet the ſame, according to the price which the Grain, Meal, or Flour, whereof it is made, bears in the market, common or reaſonable allowance being made them for their labour; and this power of the Magiſtrate, *diſcreetly exerciſed* *, may be of great uſe in checking the too great fluctuations in the market.

Wheat muſt alter four ſhillings in the quarter for the price of the peck-loaf to vary *two pence* ‡; and the price of the peck-loaf being generally between 18

* What is meant by *diſcreetly exerciſed*, is explained further in the paragraphs added to this edition, which are marked thus †.

‡ *Two-pence*, this, which was ſaid of the old Aſſize-table, is alſo true of the table in 31 G. 2. taking both ſorts of Bread into the account; conſequently theſe arguments ſtill hold.

18 pence and 3 ſhillings, every ſuch variation may be called 8 ½ per cent, or $\frac{1}{12}$ of the whole value, which is a great deal.

Now, ſuppoſe that Wheat ſhould vary in one week eight ſhillings per quarter, it might be proper for the Magiſtrates to raiſe or lower the weight and price of bread, as if it had varied only four ſhillings; always remembring to ballance the account, which they will ſcarcely miſs an opportunity of doing within the ſpace of three months, by giving the Baker, when he hath ſuffered, for the like time that he hath ſuffered, as much more than the common allowance, as will make up the difference to him; and, on the contrary, taking from him when the public hath ſuffered.

It is true the table of Aſſize hath provided for an alteration of one penny the peck, which is two ſhillings in the quarter of Corn; in regard to which the Magiſtrates may ſometimes proceed in a diſcretional manner, as before hinted in regard to four ſhillings. But they will find it impoſſible, many times for a long while together, to raiſe and fall no more than one penny in the peck at a time; and it may ſometimes happen, though it is preſumed very ſeldom, that they will be obliged to vary more than two pence.

If, *from any accidental glut in the Market**, an extraordinary fall in the price ſhould happen, and the Magiſtrates ſhould exerciſe their power with too much exactneſs in fixing the Aſſize of Bread, it may deter thoſe who have goods, preparing or prepared,

* See this further explained in the additions marked †.

from bringing them to market, and make as ſudden and conſiderable an alteration the other way, which it might be equally imprudent in them to follow in fixing the price of Bread, as it might tend to alarm the Farmer, and make him for a time withhold his Corn. Complaints againſt the Farmers for withholding in times of ſcarcity are never wanting, and yet our Parliaments have not, as we know of, thought proper to make any Laws to compel them to ſell; for which doubtleſs they had good reaſons. And Laws of this ſort ſeem needleſs, ſince the Farmers in general are obliged to contrive the matter ſo, that their whole ſtock may be ſold by harveſt to make room for the growing Crop; and the returning demands they all, except a very few, have for money, cauſe ſome of them every market day to ſell ſome ſpecies of Corn or other, and thereby as regular and continual ſupply in general is found, as could poſſibly be dealt out under the direction of any law. And, from ſome years obſervation, we are perſuaded, that if the ſtock in the Farmers hands had been annually taken account of at *Chriſtmas*, *Eaſter*, or any other time, nearly the ſame quantity of the Crop would have been found exhauſted each year at the ſame time; and perhaps more would have been found exhauſted, both in very plentiful and very ſcarce years, than in thoſe of moderate plenty. In the firſt caſe, more Corn muſt be ſold to raiſe the like ſum, and in the laſt, the increaſe of money ſeldom equals the ſhortneſs of the Crop, and many Farmers find their Barns empty before they have raiſed the neceſſary ſums. But let us ſuppoſe the Farmer in times of ſcarcity doth not bring his Corn to Market in due proportion according to the time of

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the year, it is poſſible, though he regards only himſelf, this conduct may be of public utility; for was he to ſupply the Market in the beginning of the year with as much as in good years, too great a quantity might be *exported**, and famine ſtare us in the face before next harveſt. It will be replied, a reaſonable withholding may be right, but they always carry it to a wicked exceſs. We allow this caſe poſſible, but hardly probable. The hopes of gain are always attended by fears of loſs; and fear being the ſtronger paſſion of the two, and backed, in regard to moſt of them, with their returning neceſſities, though ſome few may be carried by avarice ſo far as to withhold unreaſonably, yet much the greater part, preſſed by neceſſity, and urged by fear, will act otherwiſe; and, upon the whole, the quantity ſold will be generally found, even in ſcarce times, in proportion to the time of the year; and though upon any accidental riſe, as above obſerved, they may withhold for a time, they cannot continue to do it long, ſince, in a very ſhort time, Corn will be brought from more diſtant parts, and ſpoil their ſales.

The power of the Magiſtrates, in regard to the Aſſize, ſeems *declaratory*, and if they take care that the Baker hath, one time with another, the common, or reaſonable allowance, and no more, neither the people nor he are injured; and if the Magiſtrates can, in which however they ſhould act upon good informations and with great caution, by ſometimes giving more, and ſometimes leſs to the Baker, keep the Markets tolerable ſteady, the places where they

* See note, page 13.

preſide will hardly ever fail of a regular ſupply; and perhaps CASES may have happened within memory, which, upon reflection, may juſtify this way of thinking.

† When this pamphlet was wrote, it would not have been proper, on account of the prejudices which then prevailed, and the bad opinion to which almoſt all ſorts of people were then worked up, by anonymous authors againſt the Farmers and Dealers in Corn: or decent, on account of the tranſactions having ſo lately paſſed, to have fully explained what was hinted at by the words *diſcreetly exerciſed*, page 24, the laſt paragraph, and the *caſes* therein mentioned which was this.

† The Magiſtrates in *London* had, in the year 1757, been very ſtrict, and it was thought much too haſty, in following every ſinking in the price of Wheat and Flour, in ſetting the Aſſize of Bread; and ſome attempts were made to reduce the prices of Wheat and Flour, by ſetting the Aſſize of Bread lower than the returned prices of them would bear. The conſequences of which management were exactly ſuch, as it is herein before ſaid, ſuch proceedings, *on any accidental glut in the Market**, would produce. Such Mealmen as depended wholly, or chiefly, on the *London* Market, ſeeing they were to trade on a much greater uncertainty than common, or rather to a certain loſs; proceeded with great caution and were afraid to do their uſual quantity of buſineſs: Large quantities of Corn and Flour, which were originally deſigned for that Market, never came there at all; but were carried where it was imagined they would turn to a better, or at leaſt

See Page 25.

leaſt a more certain account; and many loads of Flour were fetched out of *London* again: and ſo bare of that commodity was the City at one time, that application was made to the Lords * of the Privy Council for advice, *and it was propoſed to their Lordſhips to put in execution the powers given by an Act of* 25 Henry VIII. *to fix a price, at which Wheat and Flour ſhall be ſold* ‡, and ſome Factors and Mealmen were

* Their Lordſhips were told, "there was juſt ground "to ſuſpect a combination had been entered into to raiſe "the price of Flour and Wheat, and that with this "view many Mealmen have ordered their Factors not "to ſell the Flour conſigned to them, and have actually "carried great quantities of Flour and Wheat back into "the country, in order to make a ſcarcity in the *London* "Market which may raiſe the price.

‡ What is above obſerved in relation to the power of the Magiſtrate in regard to Bread, will hold good as to every ſpecies of proviſion, and a French Author gives us the following ſtory, which confirms what is here advanced, and is an account of the ſucceſs of an attempt to make a regulation like that propoſed to the Privy Council.

The ORDONNANCE of PHILIP THE FAIR, in *March* 1304, ſays, None, under pain of confiſcation of their goods, ſhall ſell the SETIER of the BEST WHEAT, Paris-meaſure, for more than forty *ſols* Paris-money, and the SETIER of other inferior Corn in proportion, and of Beans and Barley at thirty *ſols*, of Oats at twenty *ſols*, Bran at ten *ſols* and other grain in proportion.

But, ſays my Author, this ORDONNANCE was made in a great ſcarcity, and it produced a moſt unhappy effect, in that it hindered the Markets from being ſupplied; and it was revoked ſome days after by another ORDONNANCE, dated at *Paris* in 1304 on *Palm-ſunday*, in which PHILIP THE FAIR permits the ſellers of Corn to get what price they can.

Eſſai ſur les Monnoies, Paris, 1746, 4to. fo. 35. notes.

were ordered to attend the 25 *Aug.* 1757, which they accordingly did, and were examined; after which, more regard being had to ſet the Aſſize of Bread according to the returned prices of Wheat and Flour, the affair was ſoon remedied; and the ſame having been continued ever ſince, with more regularity, the Markets have in general been well ſupplied.

† However, it was then found, from experience, that the power of the Magiſtrate in ſetting the Aſſize of Bread, is in *fact*, as was before hinted, only declaratory, or ſaying at what prices, according to the *returned* value of the grain, *&c.* the Baker will have a reaſonable living profit. It is true, where they lay under any difficulty to get a *true return*, they will be at a loſs how to make ſuch declaration with propriety: but this can only happen in ſmall towns or villages; and in ſuch places it is beſt not to ſet the Aſſize at all: more eſpecially ſince the Statue of 3 Geo. 3. cap. 9. brings the Bakers of Bread, particularly of that made of Wheat, under a tolerable good regulation in thoſe places where Magiſtrates ſhall not think fit to ſet the Aſſize.

† But, as it would be proper in ſmall Towns and Villages to omit; ſo in large Towns and Cities it will always be neceſſary to ſet the Aſſize, in order to ſatisfy the people that the price which the Bakers demand is no more than what is thought reaſonable by the Magiſtrates, and they have two rules by which they may judge if they have been miſtaken or miſled; that is, for any conſiderable time, accidental miſtakes and impoſitions, as they are impoſſible to be avoided, are not here meant.

† Firſt then, if they have been induced to ſet the Aſſize too high, or ſo as to give the Bakers too large

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an allowance, they will find *many** of them ſell for leſs than they allow.

† And, ſecondly, if on the contrary they have been induced to ſet it too low, they will find as in the above caſe the Markets badly ſupplied.

The Aſſize-table ‡ ſeems to want ſome enlargements, no notice being therein taken what price Flour ſhould be eſteemed to bear in proportion to Wheat; and, when this is done, it might not be amiſs to explain the method which ſhould be taken in ſetting the Aſſize out of Corporations, which is now ſeldom done, and in many places neglected, only becauſe the Law ſeems not explicit enough on that head; though it may require great care in appointing for what diſtrict the ſame ſhould be ſet; poſſibly every HUNDRED may do; but, it ſeems, a certain diſtance round every Corporation, in regard to *London* it would be beſt if it were ten or twelve miles, ſhould be obliged to follow the Aſſize ſet, and Orders made, by the Magiſtrate thereof; otherwiſe, as Bread may, and will, often be different in its price in the Town and its neighbourhood, a continual diſcontent, on account thereof, will be kept up amongſt the poor, which may, by the foregoing method of making certain diſtances round Corporations follow the Aſſize thereof, be prevented, and that without departing from the rules of juſtice, ſince,

* *Many*—there are very frequently or indeed generally ſome who underſell; and it too often happens that they make themſelves ample amends in the quality, or quantity, and ſometimes in both.

‡ A new Aſſize-table was ſettled and the Baking-trade regulated by Stat. 31 G. 2. c. 9; many of which regulations were by 3 G. 3. c. 11. extended to places where an Aſſize ſhall not be ſet.

ſince, one time with another, the neighbourhoods of Cities and great Towns are ſerved much on the ſame terms as they are.

Thus have we in general conſidered the Corn-trade and Laws, endeavouring to ſhew in what methods the Trade is carried on, from the Farmer to the Conſumer; and in what light it hath, or ſeems to have, been regarded by ſeveral Parliaments from *Ed.* VI. to this day, wherein we could not forbear to intermix a few reflections; and, if our account is generally true, moſt of thoſe who have wrote upon this ſubject have been miſtaken; probably, from conſidering the Corn-trade and Laws as they regard or effect particular places, or parts of the Kingdom only; whereas all Laws, made for the uſe of the whole nation, ſhould be conſidered in a more enlarged view.

It is not intended to inſinuate, that the Corn-trade wants no regulation, or the Laws relating thereto no Explanation or amendment, and that the Dealers in Corn are a ſort of righteous Men, who want no reſtraint or looking after. All that is aimed at is only to ſhew, that this Trade is at preſent under better regulations, and the preſent Corn-laws, tho' they may want ſome amendments, much better adapted to the intended purpoſe, than is commonly imagined: and that, whatever may be the will of particular Perſons, Providence, by the nature of the commodity, the large ſums neceſſary, and the number of hands required to carry on this Trade, hath put it out of the power of the Corn-factors, and all others concerned therein, in any conſiderable degree to oppreſs the people, more eſpecially whilſt the preſent Laws are in force; and, we are fully perſuaded, no better Laws in general for conducting this affair

fair can be framed or delivered, how much ſoever, in particular inſtances, they may be improved. Let us reflect once more upon what they ſay.

To the Farmer—Till your land, and fear not having ſo great a plenty as to be a burthen and loſs to you, for we will give a Bounty for the Exportation* of what can be ſpared.

To the People—Be not uneaſy at the Exportation of Corn, for when it begins to grow dear, the Bounty ſhall ceaſe *, and when it is dear, it ſhall be imported at ſuch a moderate and proper duty, as whilſt it adds ſo little to the price ‡, as not to diſtreſs you, ſhall yet prevent ſo great a quantity being thrown in, as may deter our own Farmers from Tillage §, nay, even when it becomes neceſſary, it ſhall be imported Duty free.

* 1 Wm. and M. c. 12. 5 Ann c. 29.

‡ 15 Car. 2. c. 7. 1 Ja. 2. c. 19. 2 G. 2. cap. 18. and 5 G. 2. c. 12.

§ How far the Farmer may by Exportation, for which we give a Bounty, be prompted to till, or by the prohibition thereof generally, or abſolutely, or by the fear of large Importations, be diſcouraged from Tillage, our Legiſlators know; and the following ſhort piece of Hiſtory, communicated to me by a Gentleman, who was an Eye-witneſs of the facts, may ſerve to ſhew their wiſdom and foreſight in making the Laws which are provided for that purpoſe.

In *Turkey*, the Grand Vizir, between twenty and thirty years ago, ſuffered a more general Exportation of Corn to be carried on, and more openly, than any of his Predeceſſors had done, inſomuch that *three hundred French Veſſels*, from twenty to two hundred Tons, were, on one day, ſeen to enter *Smyrna* Bay to load Corn, and Wheat was then ſold for leſs than ſeventeen pence *Engliſh* a Buſhel, with all the expences in putting the ſame on board included.

To the Corn Merchants, Factors, Mealmen, Mealfactors, and all concerned and employed in tranſporting Corn and Flour from the growing Counties, to ſuch parts where the conſumption exceeds the growth, and collecting it for Exportation when allowed.—Proceed freely in your buſineſs, for if the falſe notions, which the populace may of themſelves conceive,

From theſe open proceedings, the Janizaries and People took the alarm, pretended that all the Corn was going to be *exported*, and that they, in conſequence, muſt be *ſtarved*; and in *Conſtantinople*, grew ſo mutinous, that they could not be appeaſed till the Vizir was ſtrangled, and his body thrown out to them.

His Succeſſor took particular care not to ſplit on the ſame rock, and would ſuffer no Exportation at all; many of the Farmers, who looked on the Exportation as their greateſt demand, neglected Tillage to ſave their rents, which in that Country are paid either in kind, or in proportion to their Crops, to ſuch a degree, that in leſs than three years, the ſame quantity of Corn, which, in time of Export, ſold for not quite ſeventeen pence, was worth more than ſix ſhillings, and the diſtreſſes of the People in *Smyrna* were ſuch, that every bakehouſe, and Magazine of Corn, was obliged to have a military guard, which took care that no one Perſon ſhould have more than a fixed quantity; and ſo ſtrictly was this Order obſerved, that an *Engliſh* ſhip in the *Turkey*-trade, was detained from ſailing ſome time for want of Bread.

The ill conſequences of theſe proceedings were not removed in many years, and to this day, the fate of the Vizir, as an unfortunate good Man, is lamented.

While we have a Parliament, we need not fear ſuch ill conſequences from the miſtaken notions of the People, or the Farmer, but, within memory, the People, in more parts of *Great-Britain* than one, have proceeded to Extremities upon as miſtaken principles, as the People at *Conſtantinople* did in the caſe above related, and which, if they had not been timely checked, might have proved as much to their own diſadvantage.

conceive, or wicked Men for bad purpoſes, or for want of better information, may poſſeſs themſelves with, ſhould make them interrupt you, and forcibly take away, or ſpoil your property, the PLACE *, where ſuch interruption happens, ſhall pay the damage, or thoſe who do it ſhall be puniſhed. But let not this promiſe of protection and recompence be ſo ill received, and ungratefully returned by you, as to induce you to endeavour to get an unreaſonable Gain, and to oppreſs the Poor; for, in that caſe, we will ſet a price on your commodity ‡, and puniſh you, if you do not comply with our Orders; yet this ſhall be done, not by any inferior Magiſtrates, who by their connections may, however well they intend, be byaſſed either for or againſt you, or for want of proper information may give improper Orders, but by the King's Privy Council, and great Officers of ſtate, or any ſeven of them, of which the Lord Chancellor, Lord Treaſurer, Lord Preſident, or Lord Privy Seal, ſhall be one, who being beſt appriſed of what is fit to be done throughout the whole Realm, and in every part thereof, are, for that reaſon, the moſt capable to judge and the only proper Perſons to be truſted in what is fit to be done in this affair.

In regard to the Bakers, it is true, we have truſted them to Magiſtrates of Corporations and Juſtices of the Peace, who have a clear rule for their conduct. But while the Bakers act uprightly, they may proceed with the ſame freedom and ſafety, as all others may, in the carrying on their branch of the Corn-trade.

* 11 George 2. c. 22. ‡ 25 Hen. 8. c. 2.

In this ſmall compaſs may be ſeen a general view and purport of moſt of our Laws relating to the Corn-trade, except thoſe regarding Malt, Markets, and Meaſures, and which it might be poſſible to reduce, except the Baking-act, which ſeems neceſſary to be kept apart, into one plain act of Parliament; in which, though ſome amendments may be made, we are bold to ſay, the general PLAN cannot be improved.

Here a queſtion naturally ariſes, how, and in what reſpects, can thoſe amendments in our Corn-laws be made? To this, of myſelf I preſume to ſay little, but what I have heard from ſome able Men, who ſeem to underſtand the affair, I ſhall take the liberty to put down.

Let the *Bounty* * on Wheat be reduced to 4s. per quarter, and on other Grain in proportion, and payable on Wheat to 40s. Rye to 26s. Barley and Malt to 20s. yet when they exceed theſe prices, and do not exceed the old Exportation prices, let them be freely exported; and when they exceed thoſe prices, let Exportation ceaſe, except to our own ſubjects abroad in our ſervice, and the Garriſons in our Forts, and ſuch as ought to be excepted, and then let Corn be imported at the preſent low duties, till it ſhall have riſen, Wheat to 54s. and other Grain in proportion; and, after that, duty free, taking care not to make the Law ſo poſitive, but that the King, by the advice of his Council, when he ſhall think proper, tho' Corn ſhall be under the Exportation prices, may forbid the Exportation of every, or any Species

* See this ſtated at large in the conſiderations of the Laws relating to the Importation and Exportation of Corn.

Species thereof, for a time to be limited: And, to prevent confuſion, let the Juſtices of the peace, in each Quarter-ſeſſions, and the Privy Council at all times, have power to enquire into the prices of Corn in each Port, and certify the ſame to the Cuſtomer thereof, and let ſuch prices, as they ſhall certify, for three months after, be his guide, except the King in Council ſhall order otherwiſe, in regard to paying the Bounty, permitting the Export without Bounty, ſtopping the Exportation, and permitting the Importation at the low Duty or Duty free, the preſent method of obtaining the Bounty by affidavit, in regard to the Market-price, in all Ports where no ſuch Certificate ſhall be in force, being ſtill obſerved.

Two things, they pretend, ought to be taken eſpecial Care of, viz. to guard againſt the Bounty being paid for Corn *not* exported, which they affirm formerly to have been the caſe, and to protect, at all times, Perſons who may be engaged in carrying Corn, or Flour, from one part of the Kingdom to another, that the whole may have, as near as may be, an equal ſhare of the bleſſings of Providence; otherwiſe, whilſt a Bounty may be paying in one place for the Exportation of Corn, another part of the Kingdom may almoſt ſuffer famine. So much for the general Laws about Corn.

As to the Laws about Malt, it would be needleſs to mention them here, ſince they, in their Execution, are under the Commiſſioners of Exciſe.

In regard to the Laws about Markets, they ſeem not full or explicit enough, or to be grown by the alterations of times in a manner uſeleſs, or rather impoſſible to be uſed; beſides, the Statute 5 and 6

of

of *Edward* VI. as far as relates to *Weſtmoreland*, *Cumberland*, *Cheſter*, *Lancaſter* and *York*, and all foreign victuals imported, except Fiſh and Salt, is by 5 and 13 of *Elizabeth* altered, or repealed; by Statutes 21 of *James* I. and 3 of *Car.* I. till Wheat is 32s. any Perſon may buy it * in Market or out of Market; and by 15 of *Car.* 2. this Act is further altered, as hath been before obſerved.

A notion had ſome time prevailed, that buying Corn by *Sample* is FORESTALLING, and contrary to Law, which ſeems to be a miſtake. The Statute of *Edward* VI. ſays ſo plainly what Foreſtalling is, that it may be wondered how ſuch a notion could prevail. It is buying any thing *coming*, or making a bargain for any thing *coming*, before the *ſame* ſhall be in the Market, or perſuading Perſons *coming* to abſtain. Now what hath this to do with Samples? In many places it is not practicable to bring all into the Market, or, if it were; would it be reaſonable? Or could it ever be intended, that in ſuch Towns, and many ſuch there are, where from 500 to 2000 quarters are ſold every Market-day, and whoſe inhabitants do not conſume 2000 quarters of Bread-corn in a whole year, every part of the quantity ſold ſhould be pitched in the Market, after having been drawn many miles, and that, perhaps

* And yet *Howell*, afterwards Clerk of the Council, in a Letter from *Rouen*, dated *Sept.* 7, 1619, ſays, "'Tis "true *England* hath a good Repute abroad for her Fer-"tility, yet be our Harveſts never ſo kindly, and our "Crops never ſo plentiful, we have every year common-"ly ſome Grain from thence, *(France)* or from *Dant-"zic*, and other places imported by the Merchant." The alteration or different ſituation between theſe times and thoſe in regard to our plenty need not be mentioned.

haps, thro' very bad roads, to be drawn afterwards poſſibly another way as many miles more, nay ſometimes directly back again by the Farmer's own door, to be ground, or put on Ship-board, either for the uſe of diſtant parts of the Kingdom, or foreign parts.

There is a cuſtom ſtill retained in *London* which ſeems to explain this affair, and to have been at firſt introduced to prevent Foreſtalling: Which is this, no Corn is permitted to be meaſured till a Sample is carried to the Lord Mayor, who is thereby not only apprized of its Arrival himſelf, but alſo *of its Fitneſs for Man's Uſe*, and hath, by his Crier, an opportunity to give notice to the whole City of its arrival, and then grants his permit to the perſon requeſting to meaſure and take up his Corn, either for ſale, or to put in Granaries.

REGRATING is ſelling *victuals*, in which Corn is included, bought in the ſame Market, or within four miles thereof, again, except to each Perſon for his Family, which, however, by Stat. 15 *Car.* 2. may now be done after three months.

Now, however neceſſary it may be to prevent thoſe who, knowing the particular ſort of Corn that their neighbours may want, or taking advantage of ignorant, or idle People, which come late to Market, engroſs what they can early in the morning, and then, out of *pure friendſhip*, ſpare it again on the ſame day; yet the general and ſtrict execution of this clauſe would be hurtful; for who would venture, in *London* more particularly, to buy and lay up any Corn when the Market is overſtocked, if he was obliged, either not to ſell it in the ſame Market again at all, or not till after three months; or how would that Market be ſupplied, moſt certainly very ſparingly,

ſparingly, where any the leaſt ſurplus muſt either be laid up at the expence of the Importer, who generally wants the Money, or elſe ſold for next to nothing. So ſenſible were our Legiſlators of this, that when Corn is imported, if the importer cannot ſell it but to loſs, it may be re-exported to foreign parts and great part of the duty will be returned: * and if he takes care to report his ſhip for Exportation, and keep her without the Port, he may, if he diſlikes the price, go to any other port of the Kingdom which otherwiſe he cannot.

INGROSSING of Corn, is getting it into poſſeſſion with intent to ſell it again, except by perſons properly qualified, or lawfully authorized, which every Man now is, till Wheat is 48s. by Statute 15 *Car.* 2. in regard to which enough hath been ſaid before.

In this, as was before obſerved in relation to the Corn-laws, it is not intended to inſinuate, that no Laws can be enacted for the better regulation of the Markets, for there certainly may, but only to ſhew, at leaſt, that we think, that the old Laws could not have the intention, in their firſt inſtitution, which ſome Men may imagine; and that, till every Market in the Kingdom is exactly or at leaſt nearly, in the ſame circumſtances, or the growth of Corn is nearly the ſame throughout the whole Nation, no one general Law ſeems poſſible to be made, which will properly, at all times, and in all caſes, regulate them all; yet it may be preſumed, that, upon application from any particular Place, the Parliament would paſs a temporary act to regulate their markets, and their experience might be of great uſe in ſerving to ſhew, how far it would be proper to put other Places in the ſame or like circumſtances on the

* See Book of Rates title CORN.

the ſame footing. That which bids the faireſt to ſuit them all is, to cauſe a certain hour for the opening of each Market to be fixed, and to make it penal to ſell any Corn before notice is given by a Bell or otherwiſe, and then thoſe, who are not in time, may blame themſelves.

Meaſures have been attempted to be regulated to no purpoſe, as appears by many Acts ſince *Magna Charta*, which is now 500 years ago, by obliging all Perſons to uſe the like; and, it may be feared, there are difficulties to be ſurmounted, which may retard their regulation as yet for a long *while**.

† We ſhall mention only one, which it ſeems would not be eaſily got over, in regard to the meaſure of Corn; where the poor buy it for their own uſe and a large buſhel is at preſent uſed; for there it would be very difficult, if it was reduced to the preſent ſtandard, to ſatisfy them that they received no injury by the reduction.

† For inſtance, let us ſuppoſe the act to commence in a place where the meaſure of the buſhel of Wheat is nine gallons, the weight 72 lb. and the price 4s. 6d. this buſhel being reduced to eight gallons of the weight of 64 lb. and to the price of 4s. would at firſt give no offence; nor ſo long as the price ſhould remain under four ſhillings, as it would be plain that although the ſize and weight of the buſhel were leſs than before, the price was alſo reduced in a due proportion; but whenever it ſhould

* Since this was wrote, two or three Committees of the Houſe of Commons have taken great pains in regard to Weights and Meaſures; but the difficulties are not yet got over.

happen that the eight gallon buſhel was ſold for 4s. 6d. then the poor would be apt to grow diſcontented, and ſay, the buſhel is leſſened, and yet the price is raiſed, and it would not be an eaſy matter to perſwade them to believe, that if it was ſtill nine gallons, the value would be more than five ſhillings.

In the mean time, if it were enacted, that in every Market-houſe in *Great Britain*, or ſome more conſpicuous place in every Market-town, the contents of the buſhel, and other meaſures, in *Wincheſter* quarts and pints, ſhould be wrote up, and kept continually legible, and every Perſon ſelling Corn there ſhould be bound, without expreſs mention being made thereof and in caſe no expreſs mention be made at the Bargain-making to the contrary, to deliver the Perſon to whom he ſells the quantity for the Buſhel, or other meaſure, as ſo wrote up, and at the ſame time it ſhould be prohibited to depart from the uſe of the cuſtomary meaſure to any other but the legal, or *Wincheſter* meaſure.

Many good ends might be anſwered by this regulation; every Stranger coming into the Market would know what meaſure he is to expect; and, if certificates of the meaſures uſed in each Market were tranſmitted to the Exciſe, the whole might be made into a kind of alphabet, by which every Perſon would be enabled to find the various meaſures uſed in every part of the nation.

The Statute 15 *Car.* 2. fixes the prices at which all other Sorts of Grain may be laid up, as well as Wheat, and Stat. 1 *Will.* and *Mary* gives a Bounty on the Exportation of Rye, Barley, and Wheat-meal, as well as Wheat, and Stat. 5 *Ann*, on Oatmeal,

but

but it was thought proper to take notice of Wheat only in this Eſſay in order to avoid prolixity.

The prices of Wheat mentioned herein are taken from the Regiſter of *Eton* College, an abſtract of which from 1646 follows; and we will cloſe the whole with a Liſt of the Statutes above referred to.

	£.	s.	d.
From 1646 to 1666 the Average Price of the Qur of Wheat	2	17	5½
1666 to 1686 — — — — — — — —	2	6	3
1686 to 1706 — — — — — — — —	2	5	9¾
1706 to 1726 — — — — — — — —	2	4	9½
1726 to 1746 — — — — — — — —	1	17	10½
1746 to 1756 — — — — — — — —	1	17	5

Note, Theſe are the prices of the very beſt Wheat; beſides the meaſure there is full nine gallons; ſo that, deducting 2*s.* for the fineneſs, and one ninth for the meaſure, the prices will ſtand thus, *viz.*

	£.	s.	d.	
From 1646 to 1686 — —	2	4	4	Wincheſter Meaſure.
1686 to 1756 — — —	1	15	1	Ditto.
For the laſt 70 Years—Wheat hath been cheaper — — —	—	9	3	per Quarter.

In 1688, the Bounty on Exportation was firſt given, and Wheat having on the average been ſo much cheaper ever ſince ſhews, that the Law then made was a good Law, as well as 15 *Car.* 2. for, if only two thirds of the Corn conſumed in Bread hath been Wheat, and the above Regiſter is true, the Money, which hath been ſaved annually in that article only, amounts to above a *million and a half of Money**; an almoſt incredible ſum, and more than four times the ſum paid for Bounty on the Exportation of all ſorts of Corn in the year of the greateſt Export ever know; beſides the ready money which hath been brought into the nation for the Corn exported.

* See the account ſtated in the Collection of Papers Tract the third.

A LIST of the STATUTES about Corn, moſt of which are above referred to.

Year.	Kings.	General Purport.
1534—	25 *Hen.* 8.	cap. 2—regulating the price of victuals.
1548—	5 and 6 *Ed.* 6.	cap. 14—againſt ingroſſers, *&c.*
1553—	1 and 2 *P.* and *M.*	cap. 5—allowing Exportation till 6s. 8d.
1563—	5 *Eliz.*	cap. 12—alters 5 and 6 *Ed.* 6. in regard to buyers.
1571—	13 *Eliz.*	cap. 13—regulates Exportation, *&c.*
1603—	1 *Jac.* 1.	cap. 13—the ſame.
1624—	21 *Jac.* 1.	cap. 28—the ſame and alters 5 and 6 *Ed.* 6. ſtill more.
1627—	3 *Car.* 1.	cap. 4—nearly a repetition of the laſt and allows Export to 32s.
1660—	12 *Car* 2.	cap. 4—relates to Export and allows it till 40s.
1663—	15 *Car.* 2.	cap. 7—the ſame and alters or ſuſpends 5 and 6 *Ed.* 6. till Wheat 48s. to which it allows Export.
1670—	22 *Car.* 2.	cap. 13—allows Export after 48s. paying cuſtom, *&c.*
1685—	1 *Jac.* 2.	cap. 19—regulates the manner of aſcertaining the prices according to which cuſtom on the Importation is to be paid.
1688—	1 *W.* and *M.*	cap. 12—gives Bounty and repeals cuſtom on Export to 48s.
1698—	10 *W.* 3.	cap. 3—from *Feb.* 10. no Export for one year.
1699—	11 *W.* 3.	cap. 3—from *Feb.* 12. no Bounty for nine months.
1700—	11 and 12 *W.* 3.	cap. 20—no cuſtom on Export after 48s.

1706—

1706— 5 *Ann*	cap. 29	—gives Bounty on Oatmeal and Wheat-Malt.
1709— 8 *Ann*	cap. 2	—no Export for one year.
1729— 2 *Geo.* 2.	cap. 18	—relates to importation.
1732— 5 *Geo.* 2.	cap. 12	—the ſame, and amends 1 *Ja.* 2. c. 19.
1738—11 *Geo.* 2.	cap. 22	—made felony to hinder Exportation.
1740—14 *Geo.* 2.	cap. 3	—no Export for one year.
1741—15 *Geo.* 2.	cap. 35	—no Export for one year.
1757—30 *Geo.* 2.	cap. 1	—no Export till 27 *Dec.* 1757.
	cap. 7	—Import allowed till *Aug.* 25, 1757, duty free.
1758—31 *Geo.* 2.	cap. 1	—no Export till 24 *Dec.* 1758.
1759—32 *Geo.* 2.	cap. 2	—no Export till 24 *Dec.* 1759, but ſubject to alteration
and by	cap. 8	—repealed after 25 *Mar.* 1759.
1765— 5 *Geo.* 3.	cap. 31	—no Bounty on Export or Duty on Import of Wheat till 24 *Aug.* 1765.
1765— 5 *Geo.* 3.	cap. 32	—if Wheat is 6s. a buſhel, the King and Council may prohibit the Export thereof, during next receſs of Parliament.
1766— 6 *Geo.* 3.	cap. 3.	—Wheat may be imported from *America* duty free to *Michaelmas*.
	cap. 4.	—Oats and Oatmeal generally to Ditto.
	cap. 5.	—Export of Wheat from *Feb.* 26, to *Aug.* 26 prohibited.

Theſe

These are all the most material Statutes we can find relative to the Corn-trade; and it is remarkable, that although the Bounty hath been before suspended, and the Exportation prohibited, yet, till 1757, the Importation was never allowed duty free.

The following papers, which were before added, are here continued by way of Appendix, the writers are entirely unknown to the Author, nor doth he know how he came by them, but thinks they were given away at the door of the House of Commons, and in his opinion should not be lost, as they not only contain some things which have slipped him in the Essay; but also explain some of those he hath mentioned in a better and clearer manner than he hath done.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

January 19, 1757.

MEMORIAL

FOR THE

ROYAL BOROUGHS of *Scotland.*

IT is now paſt all Doubt with the diſcerning Part of this Nation, that the preſent high Prices of Grain proceed from the great Deficiencies that happened in the two laſt Crops. The firſt was almoſt entirely conſumed before the laſt was got well off the Ground; and the laſt proves extremely deficient, both in Quantity and Quality.

It is therefore perfectly evident, that an Addition to the Quantity can alone relieve the Diſtreſſes of the Poor and labouring People. It is this, and this only, which will reduce the preſent exorbitant price of Grain in the populous, graſing, and manufacturing Counties, which never yield Grain ſufficient for their own Subſiſtence, where the Poor preſently labour under extreme Diſtreſs, and which, it is too greatly to be feared, muſt even increaſe, if ſome effectual

fectual Meaſures be not immediately taken for their Relief.

It would be highly proper to ſuſpend the Duties on the Importation of all kinds of Grain for a limited Time, in order to encourage the bringing Corn from abroad to ſupply the Wants of the Poor, and thereby to ſupport the Trade and Manufactures of the Nation which otherwiſe muſt ſuffer in a very high Degree. But at the ſame time that the Legiſlature ſhould be attentive to ſuch Meaſures as will not only reduce the preſent Prices, and prevent their growing higher, they ſhould alſo be careful to prevent any unneceſſary Conſumption of foreign Grain; as that muſt drain the Iſland of ſo much of her Treaſure, and in ſome Degree diſcourage her Agriculture, and abate her Strength.

To this End it is of high Importance, that the Communication be rendered as free and eaſy as poſſible, from the growing Counties to thoſe who never produce enough for their own Conſumption. The Legiſlature ought therefore to conſider, how to prevent the preſent riotous Proceedings of the common People, their ſeizing on the Rivers and High-roads the Corn going to or coming from the public Markets or Shipping Ports, and ſelling it off, or otherwiſe diſtributing it as they pleaſe, in open Defiance of the Laws.

It is to be obſerved too, that theſe Proceedings demand the ſtricter Attention, that they prevail chiefly in the growing Counties, thereby preventing the Supplies from going to the populous manufacturing Diſtricts, which are in real Want. The leaſt Evil that enſues from ſuch Abuſes, is inhancing the price in a great Degree, by increaſing the Riſk and Charge of the Adventurer.

The

The old Laws which were made before Commerce was well underſtood, thoſe, to wit, of the 5th and 6th *Edward* VI. and of the 5th of *Elizabeth*, ſeem to have a conſiderable Tendency to increaſe the Prices to the manufacturing Counties. They lay many Reſtraints upon the Purchaſers of Corn, and ſubject them to heavy Penalties, which they are liable to incur by very innocent Miſtakes. Hence Perſons of Character and Subſtance in many Places now decline all Concern or Adventure in Grain, to the great Detriment and Diſtreſs of the Diſtricts diſtant from the Places of Growth, which were in uſe to be ſupplied by their Means, and can hardly indeed be ſupplied otherwiſe. It is true, that, in order to abate the Rigour of theſe Statutes, there was a Law paſſed in the 15th of *Charles* 2. whereby it was enacted, *cap.* 7. §. 4. "That when the "Prices of Corn or Grain, *Wincheſter* Meaſure, "do not exceed the Rates following at the Markets, "Havens, or Places where the ſame ſhall be bought, "*viz.* the Quarter of Wheat 48s. the Quarter of "Rye 32s. the Quarter of Barley or Malt 28s. the "Qr. of Buck Wheat 28s. the Qr. of Oats 13s. "and 4d. the Qr. of Peaſe or Beans 32s. that then "it ſhall be lawful for all and every Perſon and "Perſons (not foreſtalling nor ſelling the ſame in "the ſame Market within three Months after the "buying thereof) to buy in open Markets, and to "lay up and keep in his or their Granaries or Houſes, "and to ſell again ſuch Corn or Grain of the Kinds "aforeſaid, as without Fraud or Covin, ſhall have "been bought at or under the Prices before expreſſ-"ed, without incurring any Penalty; any Law Sta-"tute or Uſage to the contrary notwithſtanding."

This Act, it must be acknowledged, does in some Degree mitigate the Acts of *Edward* and *Elizabeth*. But it is to be observed, that the Prices therein specified bear no just Proportion to each other, especially those of Wheat, Barley, and Oats; the first being rated at 48s. the next at 28s. and the last at 13s. 4d. per Quarter. It is well known, that Wheat and Barley seldom now reach these Prices, but that good Oats exceed the Price at which they are rated almost as often as they fall short of it.

The Proportion may have been very just at the Time this Law was made; but the Alteration in Consumption, Produce, or Quality, has put those Articles on a very different Footing; so that now, when Wheat bears the Price of 48s. the Quarter, and Barley 28s. Oats cannot well be under 20 or 21s.

Mr. *King*, a very ingenious and accurate Calculator, in his Computation of the Land-product of *England* given by Dr. *Davenant*, estimates, that, in a Year of moderate Plenty, the Wheat sells at 28s. the Quarter, Rye at 20s. Barley at 16s. Oats at 12s. and Pease and Beans 20s. He likewise tells us, that one tenth of Defect in the Harvest will raise the Price of Corn about three tenths above the common Rate; that two tenths of Defect will advance the Price eight tenths, and three tenths Deficiency will advance it about one and $\frac{6}{10}$. If we suppose his Computation any Thing nearly just, and that the Price of Oats, in ordinary Years of Plenty, may be rated at 12s. a Quarter, surely their advancing above 13s. 4d. must very frequently happen. To lay any Restraint therefore upon the purchasing of Oats when at that Rate, is doing great Injustice to the Farmers

and

and Landholders of the growing Counties, as well as to thoſe which always ſtand in need of Supply; preventing the firſt from obtaining ſo good Prices as they might and ought to obtain, and the others from being ſupplied ſo freely, and on ſuch eaſy Terms, as they would if they were relieved from ſuch Reſtrictions.

It would be proper therefore, that a Review was made of this Law; that the buying of Oats was relieved from any Reſtraint, except when they ſhall exceed 20s. to 21s. the Quarter, which will bring them on a par with other Grain contained in the Act of *Charles* 2. It is ſurely for the Advantage of the whole Nation, that no Part of it ſhould enjoy a Monopoly againſt another; and that every Part ſhould be cultivated to the greateſt Advantage. Some Diſtricts are found moſt proper for Tillage, others for Graſing; the Produce of both is equally neceſſary for the Support of the People. The Legiſlature ought therefore, at all Times, to have in view the rendering the Circulation of the different Products into all Quarters of the Kingdom as eaſy and free from Reſtraints as poſſible: For every Reſtraint muſt leſſen the Value to the Grower, and inhance the Price to the Conſumer; eſpecially when the Article conſumed is to be brought from Places that are diſtant. The immediate reviſing of this Statute becomes the more neceſſary, that the Juſtices of the Peace, in the Counties of *Northumberland* and *Durham*, have refuſed to give Licences for the buying of Corn in the Terms pointed out by Law, though the Price of Oats is far from being high in thoſe Counties; and it is well known, that Agriculture has, within thirty years paſt, ſo increaſed in the firſt of

them, that the People cannot even in the very worſt Year, conſume near the Produce of that County: So if ſome Method is not taken, to check the increaſing riotous Diſpoſition of the People there, and to relieve all Doubts and Difficulties which the Juſtices may have in regard to the Laws, the Corn there may be coopt up in the Hands of the Farmers without Sale, to the Detriment of the landed Intereſt, and Diſtreſs of the manufacturing Counties, which conſume Oats in Bread, and demand immediate Supplies. It may alſo occaſion an unneceſſary Exportation of the Nation's Subſtance, by creating greater Demand from abroad for that Article, than would be requiſite, if the Communication between the growing and manufacturing Counties was rendered free, open, and ſafe. Therefore, if any Meaſure ſhould be taken for ſuſpending the Duties on Importation of Grain, it is of great Importance, that ſomething effectual ſhould, in the firſt place, be done towards quelling the preſent riotous Spirit that too much prevails; and rendering the purchaſing and Tranſportation of Oats from the growing Counties to the diſtant Markets, as ſafe and eaſy as that of any other Grain.

To thoſe who have Occaſion to know the Situation of the Kingdom in regard to that Article, the ſuſpending the Duties upon the Importation of Grain appears every Day more and more requiſite, to preſerve the Lives of many of his Majeſty's Subjects. It is, however, a Meaſure that ought to be conducted with great Delicacy, leſt the landed Intereſt and Agriculture of the Nation ſhould ſuffer by too large Importation.

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The Duties ought therefore to be taken off only for a limited Time, with Power to his Majeſty and Council to prolong the Time, as they ſee Cauſe. On the other hand, Supplies from abroad are abſolutely neceſſary, and this Nation can only have them from Countries that lie very diſtant; therefore the Time of Suſpenſion ſhould not be too much limited, leſt it fruſtrate the Intention, by preventing many Perſons from adventuring upon ſuch Uncertainty as they muſt be under, whether they ſhall be allowed to import the Corn after it ſhall arrive; the Duties upon every kind of Grain, except Oats, being equal to a Prohibition, unleſs the Prices ſhould go ſo high as can happen only from the moſt diſmal Famine.

As the Culture of Land is of the higheſt Importance to this Nation, every Way of encouraging Agriculture ought to be carefully ſought after and cheriſhed; and every viſible Obſtruction to its Improvement, and whatever tends to leſſen the Value of its Product, ought to be removed. It were a Pity an Opportunity of doing any Thing to anſwer theſe Ends ſhould be loſt; and none can offer more favourable than the preſent, when the Scarcity of Corn has occaſioned a Bill on that Subject to be brought into Parliament.

One great Hindrance, and needleſs Load, upon carrying the Produce of the Lands of *Britain* to the proper Markets within the Iſland, is that of exacting Coaſt-Cockets, and Bonds under high Penalties, for all Corn that may be tranſported coaſtwiſe, from one Place of *Britain* to another, without the Bounds of any navigable River. This Method is attended not only with very great Delay and Charge to all Perſons concerned in the ſhipping of Corn, but alſo

ſo with the greateſt Trouble and Hindrance to the Navigation; and there have been Inſtances, wherein, by Neglect of ſending the proper Certificates for relieving theſe Bonds, that ſome Mariners and others have been ruined by Proſecutions following thereupon, though there is not the leaſt Neceſſity for any ſuch Securities being granted; and it might be ſhewn, that, in many Caſes, the taking of them may be even hurtful to his Majeſty's Revenue.

By the Act 13th and 14th of *Charles* 2. intitled, *An Act for preventing Frauds and Abuſes in his Majeſty's Cuſtoms*, it is enacted, "That if any Goods, "Wares, or Merchandiſes ſhall be ſhipped, or put "aboard, to be carried forth to the open Sea, from "any Port, Creek, or Member, *&c.* to be landed "at any other Place of this Realm, without a Suf- "ferance or Warrant firſt had and obtained from the "Managers of his Majeſty's Cuſtoms; all ſuch "Wares and Merchandiſe ſhall be forfeited, and "the Maſter injoined, before the Ship be removed "out of the Port, to take out a Cocket, and be- "come bound for Delivery and Diſcharge thereof "in the Port for which the ſame ſhall be entered, or "ſome other Port within the Realm, and to return a "Certificate of the Goods being ſo landed and diſ- "charged."

Upon this Law is founded the Practice of taking Bond, *&c.* But it is evident by the very Title and Nature of the Statute, that it was intended to prevent Frauds and Abuſes in his Majeſty's Cuſtoms, and to prevent Corn ſhipped coaſtwiſe in any Part of the Kingdom, from being fraudulently carried out of

of it * to Parts beyond the Seas. There were conſiderable Duties at that Time upon the Exportation thereof, which made theſe Bonds and Cockets neceſſary. But by the ſubſequent wiſe Laws, encouraging the Exportation of Corn of all ſorts, and giving of large Bounties on particular kinds thereof, the Neceſſity of theſe Securities was entirely taken away; nay, the Continuation of them rendered altogether abſurd; for no Man will clear Corn coaſtwiſe which he intends to export, as by this he would loſe the Bounty. But after Corn is ſhipped coaſtwiſe, and the Veſſel has perhaps proceeded partly on her Voyage, if any ſudden Advance at a foreign Market ſhould induce the Owner to diſpatch his Cargo abroad, with ſuch Expedition as not to ſuffer the Delay and Charge of relanding and ſhipping, new Entries, &c. to intitle him to the Bounty, he is totally cut off from this Meaſure, by the Impoſſibility of getting his Coaſt-bond relieved by a proper Certificate of the Corn being landed in *Britain*. Such Circumſtances have happened, and will frequently happen in the Corn-trade; and it may be prudent for the Merchant to take this Courſe, eſpecially when the Corn on board is of the kind whereon the ſmalleſt Bounties are allowed. In this View of the Thing, the Practice of Bond is hurtful to the Revenue, as well as the Merchant. And no doubt many Cargoes in this Situation would have gone abroad, without

* *Being fraudulently carried out of it*, the Kingdom. Poſſibly no Law is more rigorouſly carried, at all Times, into Execution than the above; how then can there be any of thoſe illegal Exports, which were ſaid lately, in Print, to be ſo notorious, as to need no Proof.

without the Bounty, if the Coaſt-ſecurity had not ſtood in the Way.

Theſe Securities therefore for Corn carried coaſtwiſe, ſerve no End but to raiſe high Fees to Cuſtom Houſe Officers, to delay and retard Navigation; eſpecially when the Cargoes may be loaded at Creeks perhaps ten or twenty Miles diſtant from the Cuſtomhouſe, they often occaſion Veſſels to loſe their Paſſage, or come too late to Market, and put the Shipmaſters to conſiderable Charges, in travelling ſo far to give their Securities, and to Trouble, in finding Bondſmen to join them; beſides the great Trouble and Expence that is incurred afterwards, by procuring Certificates, and tranſmitting them to the different Cuſtomhouſes for cancelling the Bonds.

It is evident, that all this Charge and Trouble may be conſidered as a needleſs Burden on carrying the Produce of the Lands of *Great Britain* to Market.

And it is not to be doubted, that the Cuſtom of taking Bonds and Cockets for home Corn carried coaſtwiſe would have been aboliſhed, when that valuable Law was made for giving Bounties on Corn exported, if the above Obſervations had then occurred to the Legiſlature.

If it ſhould ſeem hard to riſk hurting ſo valuable an Object as the Culture of Land in *Britain*, by ſuſpending, even at ſuch a Juncture as this is, the Duties on foreign Corn imported; why allow that Land to continue loaded with a Tax on its Produce, when carried coaſtwiſe, which anſwers no good Purpoſe, and which in itſelf is oppreſſive and abſurd?

The City of *London* got free of this oppreſſive Cuſtom, by Statute, 1*mo Annæ*, *cap.* 26. for the whole River *Thames*, and the Coaſt between the Promontory

montory called the *North-Foreland* on the South, and the Promontory called the *Naſe* on the North.

The Preamble of this Statute declares how grievous a Thing it was at that Time; and that the Officers taking Cockets and Bonds, and exacting Fees for the ſame, was oppreſſive and illegal.

Ought not therefore the whole Kingdom to be freed now in the ſame Manner, by a Clauſe inſerted in the Corn Bill now depending, DECLARING, That, for the future, Permits or Tranſires only ſhall be neceſſary for Grain carried coaſtwiſe from one Part of the Kingdom of *Britain* to another, at all Times while that Commodity may be lawfully exported upon Bounty, or without Payment of Duties; and that while Corn is prohibited to be exported, as at preſent, Bonds and Cockets ſhould be exacted as formerly.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

Preſent High Prices of CORN.

THE Crops in *Britain* and *Ireland* in the Year 1755 were very ſcanty; and it is certain, that on the Approach of the laſt Harveſt, which proved late, ſeldom, in the Memory of Man, has a ſmaller Stock of old Grain been known in theſe Iſlands.

The laſt Seaſon of 1756, from its Beginning, was extreamly unfavourable; Thouſands of Acres remained unſown; and the bad Condition in which many more were ſown, rendered them uncapable of producing a good Crop, altho' favourable Weather has followed. It is certain, that the Weather during the Spring, Summer and Harveſt, was generally unfavourable; great Quantities of Grain periſhed by the Rains and Winds, and moſt of what remained proved defective, both in Quantity and Subſtance, by its not duly ripening; and, whatever People prejudiced or ignorant of the general State of theſe Matters may affirm, it is a melancholy Truth, that the Crops, tho' middling, or even good, for ſome Kinds of Grain, in particular Counties, have at no Time, during thirty Years paſt, thro' *Britain* and *Ireland*, proved more ſcanty upon the whole.

In this Situation, it is the Duty of every one who wiſhes well to his Country, to ſuggeſt all reaſonable Methods

Methods by which the preſent Exorbitancy in the Price of Grain may be corrected, and the deſtructive Conſequences of another backward Seaſon or bad Crop may be prevented. This is in all Reſpects the more neceſſary, as the Effects of the laſt bad Seaſon have been almoſt equally felt over the greateſt Part of the Northern Continent of *Europe*, and as a Scarcity in any one Country muſt neceſſarily affect the Prices of Grain in every neighbouring Country.

The Legiſlature has wiſely prohibited all Exportation of Grain; but it may be doubted whether this prudent Precaution will of itſelf be ſufficient for preventing the Calamities which another bad Seaſon may produce.

Experience has ſhewn, that the Price of no ſort of Grain has been reduced by this Meaſure, though, at this Time of the Year, Corn is generally brought moſt plentifully by the Farmers to Market. This alſo affords a ſtrong Proof, that, without the ſeaſonable Prohibition of Export, the Prices would have run higher, and that there is a real Defect in the Quantity of Corn in both Iſlands.

To prevent the Foreſtalling and ingroſſing of Corn, eſpecially in the Neighbourhood of a great City or Town, where the Millers, Bakers, Maltſters, *&c.* may themſelves purchaſe from the Growers directly, and take off all the Produce, is moſt neceſſary, and ſtrict Attention ought to be given to the Execution of this Meaſure; but it may be doubted how far the Prices of Grain will be lowered, by renewing the antient Laws againſt Foreſtallers and Ingroſſers, in their full Latitude; and many are of Opinion, that

the late well intended Proclamation has rather been hurtful, as otherwiſe, in that Reſpect *.

The Counties which are moſt populous, and where Manufactures chiefly flouriſh in both Iſlands, generally grow leſs Corn, than the other Counties leſs populous and leſs Manufacturing. Thus many Counties on the Eaſt Coaſt generally ſupply others on their own Side, but particularly the Weſt Coaſt of the Iſland, even in Times of Plenty.

It is natural, and indeed reaſonable, at firſt View, for People to think, that in Times of Scarcity there ſhould be no Interpoſition, if poſſible, between the Grower and the Conſumer, or at leaſt the Manufacturer of Grain; but this, in fact, is generally impracticable, unleſs ſo far as the Produce in the Neighbourhood of a great City or Town will go.

The Corn therefore neceſſary for ſupplying diſtant Places or Counties has always, and generally muſt be bought and tranſported to the Places where the Demand is, by Merchants, or others of Subſtance and Knowledge in that Branch of Buſineſs.

It

* It was dated 26 Nov. 1756, and after reciting the 5 and 6 of Ed. 6. c. 14. and the 5 Eliz. c. 12, &c. goes on, *And whereas the prices of Corn are already very much increaſed, and the ſame is likely to grow much dearer, to the great oppreſſion of the poor; partly becauſe the ſaid Acts are not duly put in execution. We have, &c.*—Which words, it was thought at that time, did much harm, in that many of the Farmers took the hint to wait for the higher price, and that the Dealers being threatned with proſecutions under Laws of which many of them had never heard, proceeded with great caution; whereby the circulation in the Corn-trade moved very ſlowly, the price of Wheat roſe apace and it became very dear, and this, it was imagined, was in great meaſure owing to the ſaid Proclamation, and may be added to the Conſequence ſo well deſcribed by the Writer further on.

It is obvious the Growers and Manufacturers of Grain, and far leſs the Conſumers, cannot engage in ſuch Purchaſes and Tranſportation of Corn to or from diſtant Places. It is alſo obvious, that the contractors for the Sale of ſuch Corn, or the Agents who may be employed for the Purchaſe of it in the growing Counties, muſt collect great Quantities at different places, until Opportunities of Shipping can be obtained for carrying it off; and this Practice, however neceſſary for the Supply of diſtant Places of the Iſland, comes under the Letter of the old Statutes againſt foreſtalling and ingroſſing of Corn.

This is more particularly ſo in the Caſe of Oats or Oat-Meal, which by the Statute *Ch.* 2. Chap. 15. cannot be bought without Licences, *&c.* when Oats are above 13s. 4d. per Quarter. Now, as this Price bears no Proportion to that of other Grain mentioned in that Act, the Regulation is hurtful in many Parts of the Iſland, eſpecially thoſe the moſt remote from the Capital; and it is inconceivable, how ſuch a Diſproportion ſhould have been eſtabliſhed between the Price of Oats and other Grain in that Act.

The Conſequence of the late Proclamation has been, in many growing or ſhipping Counties, to make the common People riotous, and to prevent the buying or ſhipping of Corn even in ſuch Quarters of the Country where it can be ſpared, and where the Prices are moderate. It being natural for the common People, in ſuch Times, to wiſh for Corn ſtill cheaper, and to prevent any Thing being ſhipped or going out of their Bounds, eſpecially if the Letter of the Law gives the leaſt Countenance to ſuch a Procedure.

The

The Effect of this is immediately to ſtop all Purchaſes, and to diſtreſs the diſtant and populous Places, which depend on their Supplies Coaſt-ways, even in Time of Plenty. Many ſuch Places are in the Kingdom, which might be enumerated if the Fact were not well known; and they begin already to feel this Inconveniency, it having gone to ſuch a Height, that the Tranſportation of Corn from one Place to another at the Diſtance of a few Miles to and even from the Sea-Coaſt, has been violently interrupted by the Populace.

Dr. *Davenant*, a judicious Writer, has obſerved fifty Years ago, That a Review of our antient Laws concerning Corn was neceſſary, for they were in no ways ſuited to the State of the Kingdom, Increaſe of People, and other Circumſtances of the then Times. The Obſervation will more forcibly apply to the preſent Times.

This Author's Thoughts on this Subject are worthy of Peruſal at preſent, as he points out ſome Methods for preventing Dearths for the future, though not indeed applicable in a ſcarce Year. He expoſes in the cleareſt Light the fatal Conſequences of a Dearth, eſpecially to a Trading Nation; ſuch Conſequences indeed as he mentions are not to be dreaded in our Times. Our Agriculture has been ſo immenſely improved by the wiſe Inſtitutions of Bounties on Corn exported; Commerce is more practiſed and better underſtood; and it may alſo be reaſonably ſuppoſed, that our Merchants having both more Knowledge and Capital than in former Times, will, by Importations from one Quarter of the World or another, always prevent a Scarcity from becoming intolerable.

But

But whatever is done by the Legiſlature for regulating the Inland Commerce of Corn, if no other Meaſures are taken, it will be only feſtering the Wound, and in no ſort remove the growing Evil; it may indeed make Corn cheaper for a Time in ſuch Counties where it can be ſpared, and where it is already moderate, but it will doubly diſtreſs the diſtant and manufacturing Places.

Quantity is wanted; and nothing but an additional Quantity brought to Market can effectuate the good End propoſed, and enable the Poor to purchaſe at an eaſy Rate.

This may be done in two Ways; and both will be neceſſary at preſent: firſt, by prohibiting for a limited Time the Diſtillery from Wheat in *Britain*, which will add immenſely to the Quantity for Bread; and, ſecondly, by ſuſpending the Duties on all Corn that may be imported, at leaſt for ſome Months, or while the Prices keep high at Home.

As to the firſt, without entering into the Arguments for or againſt Diſtillery in general, it ſeems natural and abſolutely neceſſary to prohibit Diſtillers the Uſe of Wheat, at leaſt for a Time; if that be true which is aſſerted with great Appearance of Reaſon, that half the Wheat that comes to the Market of *London* at preſent is bought by Diſtillers; that more of that Grain is conſumed by them alone within *England* in a Year than would maintain 500,000 Perſons *, or than the whole Quantity of Wheat which is conſumed in this Iſland northward of *York*.

Certainly

* The Obſervator was greatly impoſed on in this; I am credibly informed they never uſed near one ſixth Part of a Quantity ſufficient for that Purpoſe.

Certainly the ſaving ſuch a Quantity of Corn at this Juncture is very deſirable and neceſſary.

As to any Encroachment on the Revenue thereby, without queſtion, in our preſent Situation, that is a tender Point; but it is ſuppoſed the Wheat ſo uſed pays little if any Thing of the Malt Tax, and any Deficiency ſuſtained thereby may be more than compenſated by the Increaſe of Duties on Spirits made from Barley-Malt, by the ſaving of the whole Bounties on Corn and Malt exported this Year, and by the additional Duties * on foreign and *American* Spirits that may be imported to ſupply the Want of our own made from Wheat.

As to the ſecond Part, *viz.* The encouraging of Importations from abroad, there is no doubt, if we are not too dilatory in our Reſolutions, but we can have Corn from *America*, the Southern Parts of *Europe*, *Barbary*, and poſſibly ſome Places nearer Home. But the preſent Duties on moſt Grain, eſpecially Wheat, Rye, and Peaſe, are in effect equal to a Prohibition. The Duty on Oats is indeed low, but it would ſtill be a ſufficient Profit to the Importer, and conſequently an Encouragement to bring them into the Kingdom.

Why then may not all Duties on Corn imported be ſuſpended for ſome Months, until the Appearance of next Crop be ſeen, or until Prices at home become moderate? The Intereſt of the public Revenue will not be affected by this, it being indeed our Happineſs, that, for nineteen years in twenty, theſe Duties produce little or nothing: And as to any Objections from the Landholders and Farmers, or

* The Author means Increaſe of the Duties.

or the Dealers in home Corn, whoſe Gains may be leſſened by this Meaſure, they ought to be diſregarded at a Time when the Condition of the Poor is ſo diſtreſsful.

If theſe Methods are purſued, large additional Quantities will come to Market. The very Apprehenſion of a free Import of foreign Grain, or the Appearance of a few Cargoes thereof in our Ports, will induce all the Hoarders of Home-Grain, whether Farmers or Dealers, to bring it out to Market, and the Prices will of courſe be lowered for the Poor.

QUANTITY, and that alone can fruſtrate all Attempts to engroſs or foreſtall. If there be a good Crop, or a proper Quantity of Grain, either at home or from abroad, to be got for the Market, no Art or Scheme can inhance the Price of Grain, whatever ſpeculative Perſons may fancy to themſelves; and if there be a bad Crop, and the Quantities of Grain be ſcanty, no Art or Regulation of Government will keep the Prices low.

Theſe Methods will, it is hoped, ſerve our Purpoſe, if the next Seaſon ſhould prove early and favourable; but if theſe Methods ſhould fail, or the Seaſon in any degree appear backward, a total Prohibition of Diſtillery, and perhaps even of Malting, may be neceſſary. But it would ſeem that a ſmall Bounty upon all Corn imported for a limited Time, over and above the Suſpenſion of the Duties, might anſwer the end better, and with leſs real Loſs or Inconvenience to the Revenue or Kingdom.

Theſe two Papers appear to have been printed about the Year 1757, and are here copied exactly, except the Quotation out of 15 *Car.* 2. in the firſt, which is copied from the Statute.

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CONSIDERATIONS

CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

L A W S

Relating to the

IMPORTATION and EXPORTATION of CORN.

BEING

An Inquiry what Alteration may be made in them for the Benefit of the Public.

Wrote in the beginning of the Year 1759.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following treatiſe was wrote in the beginning of the year 1759, for the uſe of a particular Gentleman, who ſoon returned the manuſcript, which has been ſince lent to ſeveral others; notwithſtanding which the Author hath taken the liberty to make ſome corrections therein, and additions thereto, the moſt material of which became neceſſary on account of the late alterations in the Corn-laws in *France*, and are marked thus †, as to the reſt, the ſubſtance is the ſame as at firſt.

CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

L A W S

Relating to the

IMPORTATION and EXPORTATION of CORN, &c.

SECTION I.

THE variety in the ſeaſons, one year from another, will ever cauſe fluctuations in the price of every thing which depends on them, and it ſeems as poſſible to regulate the ſeaſons, as by any Law to order it ſo, that Corn ſhall always remain at one fixed and certain PRICE, and, for this reaſon, ſhould any thing of that ſort, at any time, be attempted, it would certainly fail.

Beſides, could any regulation of that ſort be carried into execution, it would tend to leſſen the

œconomy

œconomy of the common people, and the attempt would greatly diſcourage Tillage,

The œconomy of the common people would be leſſened by knowing at what price they could buy Bread, which is their principal expence; and many of them would act too much like many of thoſe who ſubſiſt on certain Salaries, that is, calculate their expences in ſo exact a proportion to their Income, that they would find a very ſmall accidental loſs extremely difficult to recover.

Few of thoſe, whoſe Incomes and Expences are certain, are known to lay up any great matter before hand, and it will be generally found, that thoſe, whoſe Incomes and Expences are uncertain, are the beſt Huſbands; and this, becauſe they are thereby obliged to a conſtant œconomy, and to ſtrive, if poſſible, to have ſomething in ſtore for accidents.

The attempting ſuch a regulation would greatly diſcourage Tillage, as the Farmer would be thereby aſſured, that ſhould he have the misfortune to looſe half his Crop, he could receive no indemnification by ſelling the remainder at a higher price.

Theſe inconveniences ſeem naturally to attend the attempting ſuch a regulation, and it may be queſtioned if any good purpoſe could be anſwered thereby.

All that can be done by the Legiſlature in this matter, is, to frame their Laws ſo as to prevent Grain from being at any Time, either ſo dear that the poor cannot ſubſiſt, or ſo cheap that the Farmer cannot live by growing of it, which hath been, or at leaſt ſhould have been, the general view of all Governments in their Corn-laws; and no regulations that have ever been made, in any Country, in regard thereto,

thereto, can have anſwered theſe ends better than thoſe eſtabliſhed in this Kingdom; which in general are theſe, *viz.* permitting an Importation at a low duty when dear, and by a high duty prohibiting it when cheap, and at the ſame time, in order to the encouragement and increaſe of Tillage, giving a Bounty on the Exportation, and ſecuring the property of all Perſons who ſhall trade therein for that end.

The Bounty was firſt given on the Exportation of Grain in the year 1689, now ſeventy years ſince *; during which period, Grain hath in general been from fifteen to twenty *per cent.* cheaper than for forty years before that time, which is a good proof of the utility of the Law by which it is ordered to be given, and which is further proved, in that, ſince its firſt eſtabliſhment, the Parliament have not thought fit to ſuſpend it, either in part or the whole, only four times, *viz.* in 1698, 1709, 1740, and 1757, which laſt ſuſpenſion is ſtill in force, and to continue to *Chriſtmas* next ‡.

That Corn hath been as much cheaper ſince the Bounties took place as before mentioned, is ſo notorious, that the prices thereof to which the Bounties are payable by Law, which when firſt eſtabliſhed were thought *moderate*, and under which the then Parliament thought the Farmer could not afford to grow it, are now thought *very dear*, and long before Corn is ſold at thoſe prices, at which the Bounties are to ceaſe of courſe, we have of late heard

* This was wrote in the month of *Jan.* 1759.

‡ The Stat. 32 G. 2. chap. 2. which enacted this prohibition, was in purſuance of a clauſe therein, by chap. 9. repealed after 25 *March*, 1759.

clamours for taking the Bounty off, and ſtopping the Exportation.

§. 2. Few underſtand the nature of the Corn-trade ſo well as to be able to determine juſtly, if it would be proper to make any alteration in this matter, and even amongſt thoſe few, much the greater part are intereſted in the queſtion, and therefore all ſhould be heard with great caution.

And ſo different are their opinions, that whilſt one urges the neceſſity of taking off the Bounty, now paid on the Exportation of Corn, for the future, becauſe, as he thinks, it tends to make Bread too dear for the poor; it is preſſed by another as making Corn ſo cheap, that the Farmers cannot live, and this Author ſeems to think, that no other Country can export Corn but our own, and that foreigners muſt have it at what price we pleaſe.

A third contends that the Bounties ſhould not be withdrawn for the ſame reaſon, ſaying, the ſame effect will follow, and that to ſuch a degree, that the Farmer could not go on without a great abatement in his Rent; adding moreover, that were the Bounties taken away, our ſhipping would decreaſe, and conſequently our ſeamen; and therefore he concludes, that the continuing to give a Bounty on the Exportation of Corn is neceſſary to the well being of the Nation.

A fourth ſays, a Bounty ſhould be continued, giving for inſtance, Wheat; which, in his opinion, ſhould never be ſold under 3s. 6d. nor for more than 4s. a buſhel, and propoſes, in order to keep it in this medium, that a Bounty of 6d. a buſhel be continued

tinued, when the price of the buſhel doth not exceed 4s. 6d. and, when it exceeds 5s. propoſes that a duty of 8d. a buſhel be paid on the Exportation, which duty ſhould go towards the Bounty when Corn is low.

§. 3. Although it might be much eaſier to ſhew, that moſt of theſe propoſitions are calculated to ſerve particular intereſts, than to determine what is right, and fit to be done; yet the preſent time, during the SUSPENSION of the Law, is moſt undoubtedly the proper time to conſider the queſtion, ſince no plea can now be made againſt any alteration in the affair, on account of its tending to deprive any ſet of Men of their preſent livelihood, and we have alſo an opportunity of ſeeing the Corn-trade at preſent carried on, without either Exportation or Bounty. Let us therefore ſuppoſe the queſtion, in relation to both Importation and Exportation, to be ſtated as follows.

Firſt, Is it proper to allow of any Importation or Exportation of Corn for the future?

Secondly, If it is proper to allow of Importation and Exportation of Corn, ſhould it be done under any and what encouragements, reſtrictions, and regulations?

Thirdly, Are thoſe encouragements, reſtrictions, and regulations, if any are neceſſary, to be made certain and remain fixed? Or is any and what power of varying them from time to time to be lodged in any and what hands?

To which queſtions the following anſwers may be given.

Firſt, As it would be contrary to common ſenſe to think, when our own growth is not ſufficient for our conſumption, of prohibiting the Importation, ſo it would be highly unreaſonable, when we have Corn to ſpare, to deny the liberty of Exporting the ſurplus; and therefore, both Importation and Exportation of Corn muſt be allowed for the future.

Secondly, As it appears, that under the preſent encouragement, reſtrictions, and regulations, relative to the Importation and Exportation of Corn, moſt of which have now ſubſiſted ſeventy years, that commodity, hath in general, been as cheap, and Wheat in particular cheaper than before they took place; it may fairly be concluded, that to them ſuch cheapneſs hath been owing, and therefore both the one and the other ſhould ſtill be allowed under ſome *ſuch* encouragement, reſtrictions, and regulations as are now ſubſiſting, though at preſent ſuſpended.

Thirdly, From the ſame reaſon, the ſucceſs of the preſent Laws in relation to Corn, which are certain and fixed, with a power of variation, lodged in either of the two Quarter-ſeſſions next after *Michaelmas* and *Eaſter* in *London*, and in every Quarter-ſeſſions in all other parts of the Kingdom, as to the opening the ports for Importation only; we muſt conclude, that it is beſt for them to remain much on the ſame footing; and if any alterations are made therein, they muſt conſiſt only in regard to Exportation; either in leſſening the Bounty, paying it to a leſſer PRICE, or, perhaps, taking it quite away; and in regard to Importation; in a new regulation of the

the *Duties* payable in that caſe, or in regard to the opening the *Ports* * for that purpoſe.

§. 4. The better to determine what may be done in each of theſe particulars, the following poſitions may be laid down, *viz.*

1. Corn may at ſome price be ſo cheap, that the *Grower* will not have a reaſonable reward for his labour.

2. At ſome other price ſo dear, that the *poor* may find it difficult to purchaſe it.

3. And it may alſo be at ſo moderate a price, that both the *poor* may afford to purchaſe, and the *Farmer* afford to grow it at the ſame time.

Now, it ſeems very clear, could the prices at which Corn may be ſaid to be *cheap*, *reaſonable*, or *dear*, be aſcertained, it would be of great uſe in determining what alterations might be made, with propriety, in all or any of the preſent Corn-laws.

And for the aſcertaining thoſe prices, we have only to refer to the regiſter of *Eton* College, and the Statutes which give a Bounty on the Exportation of Corn, adding a reflection or two.

By the ſaid regiſter it appears, that the average prices of the *beſt* Wheat and Malt, nine gallon meaſure, have been for 164 years, as follows.

Number

* By opening the *ports* is meant, the certifying from the Quarter-ſeſſions to the Collector of the Cuſtoms, that the prices of Grain are ſo high, that it is chargeable with the low *duties* only; and for want of ſuch certificate, the full duties are to be taken, and they amount to a prohibition. See Stat. 1 Jac. 2. c. 29. 2 G. 2. c. 18. and 5 G. 2. c. 12.

Number of years and when			Prices.					
No.	from	to	Qr. Wheat.			Qr. Malt.		
51	1595	1646	2	5	$3\frac{1}{4}$	1	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$
40	1646	1686	2	11	$10\frac{1}{4}$	1	9	4
40	1686	1726	2	5	$3\frac{3}{4}$	1	7	$5\frac{1}{4}$
33	1726	1759	1	18	$10\frac{1}{2}$	1	7	4
91	1595	1686	2	8	$2\frac{1}{4}$	1	7	$7\frac{3}{4}$
73	1686	1759	1	18	11	1	7	3
164	1595	1759	2	4	$0\frac{3}{4}$	1	7	$6\frac{1}{4}$

And the ſaid Statutes ordering the Bounty to be paid on Wheat till 48s. Rye till 32s. Malt and Barley till Barley is 24s. and Oatmeal till Oats are 15s. ſhew, that till the ſeveral Grains exceed the ſaid prices they are to be eſteemed *cheap*; and that when the Bounty ceaſes they are not to be thought *dear* till the prices, except *Oats* *, are conſiderably advanced, for the duties are ſo very heavy as to prevent any Importation till Wheat is 53s. 4d. Barley 32s. Rye 40s. and Oats 16s. and, though they ſhould exceed theſe prices, the duties muſt ſtill be paid, till the port hath been opened; which can only be done at certain ſeaſons, and in a particular manner, as mentioned page 77 in the note.

We can by no means ſuppoſe the Legiſlature had an intention to keep Grain up to theſe laſt, or even to

* The Bounty is payable on Oatmeal till Oats are 15s. and yet at 16s. the low duty commences.

to the Bounty prices. The views of these Laws are most evidently no other than to give all possible encouragement to Agriculture and the growth of Corn, by opening to the Farmer a certain Market for his surplus, and assuring him at the same time, that, in case of a failure in his Crop, foreign Corn shall not be imported on him till the necessity of the people requires it, and the price is so far advanced as to put it in his power in some measure to make up his loss.

And the consequences have answered; for Agriculture hath been so much extended, and the art of husbandry so much better attended to, and managed with so much more judgment and success, since the passing the above Laws, and under the protection and encouragement they give, than it was before that time; that, although large quantities of all sorts of Grain have been exported, and Wheat is much more generally used for Bread by the common people*, yet the price thereof is considerably sunk, and the price of Malt and other Grain is not advanced; and also, although the rents of Lands have, in general, been very much raised, yet the Farmers are, for the most part, men in much better circumstances than when those Laws first took place.

From

* See supp. ch. 5. sec. 14 and 15. where this is remarked, and it there appears that a labouring man spends sixpence a week more for Wheaten than for Rye-bread; from which increase of expence, arise those complaints we have so frequently heard of late of the high price of Wheat long before it is sold at 48s. when the Bounty is to cease; the bread made of Wheat being always dearer than that made of any other grain.

From what hath been recited and obſerved, may be collected at what prices Corn may be eſteemed *cheap*, *reaſonable*, or *dear*; or in other words, what the conſumer can afford to give, and the growers afford to take, and this from what hath been done for a conſiderable time, and by making a compariſon between the ſtate of the affair, not only at the preciſe time the Laws were made, and the ſtate thereof at preſent; but, as to the prices of Grain, by comparing the averages thereof for ninety-one years preceeding with ſeventy-three ſince they took place,

And we may venture to fix the price of the quarter of each ſort containing eight buſhels of the *Winchester* or Statute meaſure, as follows, *viz.*

Wheat	to 36s.	per quarter, cheap, to	42s.	moderate, and then dear.
Barley	to 18s.		22s.	
Rye	to 24s.		28s.	

Peaſe may be reckoned as Wheat, and Beans as Rye.

Oats to 12s. per quarter cheap, to 16s. moderate, and then dear.

We keep Oats at 16s. as before, becauſe it hath been ſaid, and with an appearance of reaſon, that they were permitted to be imported at too low a price *, in proportion to the other Grain.

From the above prices it may be concluded, that each of the Grains ſhould be exported freely, till it exceeds the moderate price, and afterwards till the ports are open for Importation, if not without, at leaſt with a ſmall duty; ſay Wheat 6d. Barley 3d. Rye

* See note, page 78.

Rye 4d. and Oats 3d. per buſhel; but as theſe duties would amount nearly to a *prohibition* *, it may be better not to impoſe them.

From thence it alſo appears, that the Farmer will have no need of a Bounty; provided Corn continues on the average as high as it hath done ſince the Bounty took place.

But as all experiments, which may poſſibly hurt or diſcourage Agriculture, ſhould be very cautiouſly made, it may be very proper to allow, for times certain, a Bounty on Wheat, Barley and Rye; but leſſer than the preſent *Bounties* ‡, and payable to leſſer

 prices,

* It would be adding twenty five per cent. to the firſt coſt of Wheat; the ceaſing of the Bounty adds $12\frac{1}{2}$, and that would be a ſufficient check; for example, ſay Wheat coſts 36s. in the Market, a Bounty of 4s. reduces it to 32s. Now 4s. is $\frac{1}{8}$th of 32s. *i. e.* $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and, conſequently, was the like duty to commence when the Bounty ceaſes, it would be 25 per cent. beſides it is an experiment which hath been already tried; for when, in 1688, the Bounty was given, the act of 22 Car. 2. which makes cuſtom payable on Wheat exported after 48s. was not repealed, but after 12 years experience, viz. in 1700, it was repealed by 11 and 12 W. 3. and what is remarkable, it had been ſo dear the year before, that the Bounty was ſuſpended, and the price was 40s. at the time.

‡ The preſent *Bounties* are as under,

Wheat till	48s.	5s. 0d.
Rye till	32s.	3s. 6d.
Barley till	24s.	2s. 6d.
Oatmeal till Oats are	15s.	2s. 6d.

Malt receives the ſame as Barley, and by Statute 3 G. c. 7. ſec. 14 and 15, every *two* quarters of Barley is to be eſteemed to make *three* quarters of Malt, and the duty is paid accordingly; by which means, with the expence of *two* pence per quarter, paid by the Exciſe

prices, and leſſening every year till the whole are taken off, which we may ſuppoſe as follows, *viz.* Wheat 6d. per buſhel till 36s. per quarter, for one year, to decreaſe ¾ per buſhel each year after, till the whole is taken off. Barley 3d. per buſhel, till 18s. per quarter for one year, to decreaſe ½ per buſhel, each year after, till the whole is taken off. Rye 4d. a buſhel, till 24s. per quarter, for one year, to decreaſe ½ per buſhel, each year after, till the whole is taken off. By which means it might be known without any great *hazard* *, how far the Bounty on Corn might be altered or withdrawn without diſcouraging Tillage.

Whilſt a Bounty is allowed, we apprehend no better method can be found of aſcertaining that the prices do not exceed thoſe to which it is payable, than the old method of the Exporter's oath, on making the entry in order to the taking out the debenture, that the average price of the Grain to be exported did not exceed the Bounty price the laſt Market day.

As

Exciſe for breakage on the ſhipping it off, the Bounty given on every quarter of Barley made into Malt for Exportation is four ſhillings, which, if the price was always twenty ſhillings, is 20 per Cent. whereas *two* ſhillings and ſix pence on Barley is only 12 ½ per cent. by which means the Exportation of Malt is greatly encouraged.

* Between the writing and printing theſe conſiderations, reaſons have ariſen to alter theſe opinions, as will be explained further on, and diſtinguiſhed thus †.

§. 5. As to the IMPORTATION: in order to know if any new regulations or alterations in the duties payable on Corn imported, and in regard to opening the ports for that purpose ſhould be made; it is neceſſary, firſt, to give a ſhort account how theſe matters now ſtand.

The Duties payable for the ſeveral ſorts of Grain on Importation, are noted by Mr. *Saxby*, in his Book of Rates, as follows,

Grain	Duties	Duties	Duties
Beans to 28s. per qr.	19s. 19d.	after till 40s. 16s. 8d.	then 12d.
Barley to 28s. —	19s. 10d.	—— 32s. 16s. ——	12d.
Malt is prohibited.			
Oats to 16s. ——	5s. 10d.	after —— ——	9d. $\frac{1}{2}$
Peaſe to 40s. —	16s. 0d.	after — —— ——	9d. $\frac{3}{4}$
Rye to 36s. —	19s. 10d.	till 40s. 16s. 8d.	then 12d.
Wheat to 44s. —	21s. 9d.	till 53s. 4d. 17s.	then 8s.
till 4l. and after that about 1s. 4d.			
Buck Wheat to 32s. per qr. to pay 16s.			

And the Collector of the Cuſtoms is to govern himſelf, in regard to taking the duties, by certificates of the prices of Corn which may be made by the Juſtices of the Peace in every Quarter-ſeſſion, except in *London*, where the Magiſtrates are impowered to certify in *October* and *April* only.

The above duties amount to a prohibition on each ſort of Grain, except Oats*, till the prices are very high, which tends greatly to encourage our own Tillage, as hath been before obſerved; and therefore no great alteration ſhould be made. But there are ſome who are of opinion, that if Oats were to be charged 5s. 10d. till 18s. per quarter, and if the low duties were to commence on Beans at 36s. on Barley at 28s. on Rye at 36s. on Wheat and Peaſe at 50s. the affair would ſtand rather more on an equality, and no inconvenience could ariſe.

And they add further, that it would be well if a certain price were fixed at which, the ſame being duly certified, Corn might be imported, for a time certain, duty free; as nothing will tend more to keep the price moderate, and the deſires of Farmers and all other holders of Corn within reaſonable bounds, than being under a conſtant apprehenſion of ſuch an Importation.

As to the preſent method of taking the duties according to the certificates of the price of Corn, made by the juſtices in every Quarter-ſeſſions, and of the Magiſtrates in *London* in *October* and *April*, it ſeems founded in reaſon, and fit to be continued. For if the Crop hath failed, it begins to be felt in *October*, and if it is nearly expended, it is known in *April*, in which two months the Magiſtrates in *London* are to certify; and if they certify that Corn is ſo high as to be imported at the low duty, the Importation muſt continue for ſix months; which, in regard

* It is to be obſerved, the importation of Oats hath far exceeded that of all other Grain, being more than two parts in three of the whole as may be ſeen in the Collection of Papers, &c.

gard to that port, is very reaſonable, for if they had it in their power to allow of the Importation for three months only, it would not be of any great utility, ſince nobody would venture to load any *quantity*, as the time might poſſibly elapſe before the arrival to the *loſs* of the Importer. And the certificates of the juſtices in every Quarter-ſeſſions out of *London*, ſeems as proper in regard to the circumſtances of moſt other places, and as well adapted for their ſervice, as the regulation for *London* doth for the ſervice thereof; for in them, or moſt of them, a ſmall additional quantity will carry them on for three months, and if enough doth not arrive in that time, they can continue the port open, by certifying anew, for three months longer.

Theſe certificates may be made either in the Quarter-ſeſſions, or at any adjournment thereof, and the making them ſeems to be diſcretionary, not compulſory; and that it ſhould be ſo is quite neceſſary, ſince it may accidentally happen that the prices of Corn may, for one or two Market-days next before the Seſſions, be at ſo high a rate, as to allow of the Importation, and an Importation improperly allowed may be very hurtful to the Farmer.

Therefore, the method, that hath at ſome times been taken, of adjourning the Seſſions for this particular purpoſe is very prudent, and it might be proper always to adjourn the conſideration of all petitions as may be preſented in regard to this affair in the *Michaelmas*-ſeſſions, till about the 20th of *November*, as by that time it will be known, if the high prices are owing to the ſhortneſs of the Crops, lateneſs of the Harveſt, want of arrivals, or to any other cauſe.

When

When Corn is once imported, in purſuance of theſe certificates, it cannot be reſhipped, except for Exportation, abroad and not to carry coaſt-ways in *Britain*; and with good reaſon, for particular Importations ſhould be ſo ordered, that, whilſt they are of ſervice to the place for which they are intended, they may not hurt the Farmers in other parts. So far for particular Importations, for the Laws as they now ſtand regard no other.

§. 6. General IMPORTATIONS have been eſteemed by our Legiſlators of the greateſt moment, and they can never be permitted, but by a new Law expreſsly made for that purpoſe, as is at preſent the caſe, and if ever the power of permitting them is intruſted by the Parliament to any but themſelves, it ſeems as if it can be no where ſafely lodged, but in the King and Council, and whenever the queſtion comes before them, they will undoubtedly proceed with the greateſt caution, the ſtate of the Markets in all foreign parts, from which Corn may be imported, as well as the ſtate of our own Markets throughout the Kingdom, and the time of the year will be conſidered.

At *Michaelmas*, a late harveſt may make Corn in general dear for a time, although there may be a ſufficient ſtock in the Kingdom, then and at all times contrary winds, and in war time want of convoy, and every other means which tends to prevent the free tranſportation or circulation of Grain from one part of the Nation to another, which circulation there can be no doubt but all in power, in imitation

tation of the Legiſlature, will always promote, protect and encourage, may make Corn dear in particular places; and if a ſudden riſe in the price, occaſioned by the above or any other accidental ſtops in the circulation, ſhould at any time be miſtaken for a real ſcarcity, and a general importation allowed, it may be the cauſe of having ſo much Corn imported in ſix months, and ſuch Importation will ſcarcely ever be granted for a leſſer time, as to make our own Farmers labour for nothing the whole year, or perhaps longer, and conſequently greatly diſcourage Tillage.

It will throw ſome light on this reaſoning to conſider, that a general failure of the Crops throughout *Europe* is but rarely the caſe, and though it may happen, that our own growth may be ſo ſhort as to require a permiſſion of either a general or particular Importation; yet, at the ſame time, ſome neighbouring Kingdoms may have ſo much Corn to ſpare, as, if either is allowed without reſtriction, to be able in a few months to import ſo great a quantity, that our own Farmers may not be able to get a common price, though they have but a very ſhort Crop. Which was the caſe a few years ſince in the port of *London*, with regard to Oats.

When a general Importation is allowed it ſhould not be for leſs than ſix months, for the ſame reaſon as in the particular at *London*,* viz. a ſmall quantity would be of little or no uſe, and if the time limited for Importation is too ſhort, no great quantity can arrive.

As in particular Importations none of the Corn imported ſhould be reſhipped, to be carried coaſtways in *Great Britain*, becauſe ſuch Importations are for the ſervice of particular parts of the Kingdom

* Altered laſt Seſſions to every three months.

Kingdom; ſo, on the contrary, whenever a general Importation is allowed, the Corn imported ſhould be permitted to be reſhipped and carried coaſt-ways to any other part of the Kingdom with the ſame freedom as Corn of our own growth, becauſe ſuch Importations are for the benefit of the Kingdom in general.

There is an opinion, that, as the Law now ſtands, the Exportation of Grain can be prohibited only by the *Parliament**, which may ſtrictly ſpeaking be true, more eſpecially in time of peace; but ſurely the King by his prerogative, may at any time, particularly in time of war, prevent it by an embargo. And it might be proper to impower him to do it at all times by proclamation, with the advice of his Council, which Mr. *Burn* ſays he may, and quotes an Act 1 *Ja.* 1. but this power was only an exception to that Act, and was, at leaſt virtually, repealed both by 22 *Car.* 2. and 1 *Wm.* and *Mary.*

The Parliament hath, in the Act for ſuſpending the Laws till *Chriſtmas* next, 1759, reſerved a power of making any alteration during their preſent Seſſions, and if Corn continues cheap, and it can be done without hazard of aſſiſting the enemy, they may poſſibly allow an Exportation ‡, and it deſerves conſideration; if that be done, whether it ſhould not be without a Bounty for the remainder of the year, as was

* This opinion appears to be right, by the paſſing of the Act of 5 G. 3. cap. 31. to authoriſe the King and council to prohibit the Exportation of Wheat during the prorogation in 1765.

‡ It was by Stat. 32 G. 2. c. 8. allowed to be exported without any reſtriction, and with the Bounty.

was the case in 1699, and whenever Corn is allowed to be exported again with a Bounty, whether an inquiry should not be made, if there is any foundation for the rumour of the Bounty having been paid for great quantities of Corn which were never exported*.

Nothing but experience can shew, how far any of the alterations here proposed may be of service. We are certain that the present Corn-laws have had their desired effect, and therefore should alter them with great caution, and this the rather, since, how light soever some amongst us may think of them, two very sensible late *French* Authors ‡ attribute to them, and to the Act of navigation, the present figure we

 make

* A report, which hath long subsided, was current in the year 1759, that, in some of the out-ports, means had been found to impose on the officers of the Customs, in whose presence the Corn is measured into every vessel, the first time she loads in bulk, and to make them certify, that many of them held more than in fact they did: If there was any truth in this report, surely it could not be done as to Malt; for, by Stat. 3 G. 2. c. 7. §. 14 and 15. all Malt made for Exportation is to be locked up by, and shipped under the inspection of the Excise officer.

However; all frauds in the Exportation of Corn may easily be prevented for the future, by making the Bounty payable on the proof that the Corn is landed according to the Entry, or lost, which proof the Master of the Vessel might be bound to make in like manner as he is in regard to his having made the payments to *Greenwich* Hospital.

‡ *Les Interêts de la France mal entendus*, and *L'Ami des Hommes*.

make in *Europe*, and preſs the making the like for their own Kingdom.

§. 7. † And the ſentiments of thoſe writers have been ſo far adopted by the government, that, between the writing and printing theſe *Conſiderations*, the King hath publiſhed two remarkable EDICTS ‖, one allowing all perſons to trade in Corn, and to circulate it freely throughout the whole kingdom; the other authoriſing and encouraging the Exportation and Importation thereof: the Exportation to ceaſe when Wheat hath been for three following Market-days, at a price which anſwers to about 48s. our quarter, Statute-meaſure, and there are thoſe who ſay, that they are fully perſuaded they ſhall live to ſee as good a Bounty given for Corn exported from *France* as is given from *England*.

† Theſe proceedings of the *French* ſhould at leaſt put us on our guard as to any alterations we may think of making in the relation to the Bounty; for if thoſe Edicts are continued and attended with ſucceſs, we ſhall not only looſe our Corn-trade in *France*, but alſo meet the *French*, as competitors in that Trade, in all other foreign Markets.

† Therefore the hints thrown out page 80 of reducing the Bounty, paying it to the prices there mentioned, and taking it entirely off by degrees; which in 1759 it was thought might be attempted *without any great hazard*, ſeem now in the year 1766 highly improper; and that it would be wrong, even to

‖ See an account of them. ſupp. ch. 2. ſec. 8 and 9.

to think of taking the Bounty entirely off, or to reduce it, and at the ſame time pay it to leſſer prices. One of the laſt two may, however, ſurely be done, without any great riſk; and we might either continue the ſame Bounties, but payable to leſſer prices, ſay Wheat to 40s. and the reſt in proportion; or reduce them, ſay one third, and continue to pay them to the ſame prices as at preſent.

† Was the firſt carried into execution, we ſhould in general continue to ſend our Corn to foreign Markets on as good terms as heretofore, but when it ſhould happen to riſe to the prices at which the Bounty would ceaſe, it would be ſo great and ſudden a check, as might turn the Trade into another channel for ſome time; and it may accidentally riſe to that price either juſt before or ſoon after Harveſt, and yet, at the ſame time, the ſtock in hand may be ſo large that a great quantity may be ſpared for Exportation, and Corn ſold for a moderate price in the remaining part of the year and until the next Harveſt.

† If the ſecond was to be the Law, as the Markets abroad always regulate the prices at which Corn is bought here for Exportation, the Merchant muſt always buy at ſo much leſs as the deduction in the Bounty, to be on a par with them; and conſequently, what he ſhall buy will tend leſs to raiſe the Market here, a very large ſum would be annually ſaved in the Bounty, and no interruption would happen to the Exportation-trade, by the ceaſing of the Bounty, until the high price ſhould require it.

CONCLUSION. The purport of all that hath been ſaid, is this, that as the variety of the ſeaſons will always prevent the price of Corn being fixed by a Law, and could it be done, it would be attended with inconveniences, and the attempt would diſcourage Tillage, therefore all that can be done, is to regulate the matter ſo, that it may be kept in a due medium; which our preſent Laws have done beyond expectation; and conſequently, that every attempt to alter them, with the leaſt probability of ſucceſs, muſt be made by comparing the ſtate of the affair before the time they were made, with the ſtate thereof ſince they have been in force, which hath been endeavoured, with what propriety we freely ſubmit, but could wiſh, whether any alteration is made or not, all the Laws relating to the Corn-trade were reduced into one Act of Parliament.

FINIS.

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A COLLECTION

A

COLLECTION

OF

PAPERS

Relative to the

Price, Exportation, and Importation of Corn:

With ſome

Obſervations and Calculations,

Shewing

What the Nation may be ſuppoſed to have gained by giving the Bounty on the Exportation. What the quantity of each ſort of Corn annually Conſumed, Exported, Imported, and Grown, may amount to, and the proportions they ſeverally bear each to the other.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Papers have been publiſhed, in part at leaſt, by others; except the accounts of the Importation; but it is not remembered that they have been viewed or conſidered in the ſame light as in this Collection.

A

COLLECTION

OF

PAPERS

Relative to the

Price, Exportation and Importation of CORN, &c.

AN account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and *Malt* in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 exclusive. Taken from the Audit-books in *Eton* College.

Year	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	l.	*s.*	*d.*	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*
1595	2	0	0	1	0	0
1596	2	8	0	1	6	8
1597	3	9	6	2	6	4
1598	2	16	8	1	12	6
1599	1	19	2	1	3	4
1600	1	17	8	1	0	0
1601	1	14	10	1	4	6
1602	1	9	4		17	4
1603	1	15	4		14	8
1604	1	10	8		14	6

An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and *Malt* in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 exclusive.

Year	Wheat qr. l.	s.	d.	Malt qr. l.	s.	d.
*1605	1	15	10	1	2	0
1606	1	13	0		19	4
1607	1	16	8		18	4
1608	2	16	8	1	4	0
1609	2	10	0	1	9	0
1610	1	15	10		19	4
1611	1	18	8		19	8
1612	2	2	4	1	5	4
1613	2	8	8	1	6	4
1614	2	1	8½	1	7	0
1615	1	18	8	1	5	4
1616	2	0	4	1	4	8
1617	2	8	8	1	0	4
1618	2	6	8	1	0	0
1619	1	15	4		19	8
1620	1	10	4		18	8
1621	1	10	4		16	0
1622	2	18	8	1	6	0
1623	2	12	0	1	11	2
1624	2	8	0	1	3	4
*1625	2	12	0	1	1	6
1626	2	9	4	1	7	8
1627	1	16	0	1	0	0
1628	1	8	0		18	0
1629	2	2	0	1	4	0
1630	2	15	8	1	14	0
1631	3	8	0	1	18	8
1632	2	13	4	1	11	0
1633	2	18	0	1	8	0
1634	2	16	0	1	12	4
1635	2	16	0	1	7	8
1636	2	16	8	1	8	8
1637	2	13	0	1	19	4
1638	2	17	4	2	2	4
1639	2	4	10	1	11	8½
1640	2	4	8	1	7	8

1641

*Note, these are the last years included in each average.

An account of the true Market price of *Wheat* and *Malt* in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 exclusive.

Year	Wheat qr. *l.*	*s.*	*d.*	Malt qr. *l.*	*s.*	*d.*
1641	2	8	0	1	9	0
1642	wanting in the account. The year 1646 supplied by Bishop Fleetwood.					
1643						
1644						
*1645						
1646	2	8	0	1	9	0
1647	3	13	8	1	17	0
1648	4	5	0	2	0	0
1649	4	0	0	2	2	0
1650	3	16	8	1	18	6
1651	3	13	4	1	9	0
1652	2	9	6	1	8	0
1653	1	15	6	1	8	0
1654	1	6	0	1	0	8
1655	1	13	4	1	0	0
1656	2	3	0	1	4	0
1657	2	6	8	1	8	4
1658	3	5	0	1	9	4
1659	3	6	0	2	8	8
1660	2	16	6	1	12	8
1661	3	10	0	1	13	4
1662	3	14	0	2	2	0
1663	2	17	0	1	12	8
1664	2	0	6	1	10	0
*1665	2	9	4	1	8	4
1666	1	16	0	1	6	0
1667	1	16	0	1	2	8
1668	2	0	0	1	4	0
1669	2	4	4	1	7	4
1670	2	1	8	1	6	6
1671	2	2	0	1	5	4
1672	2	1	0	1	2	0
1673	2	6	8	1	4	0
1674	3	8	8	1	14	0
1675	3	4	8	1	14	0
1676	1	18	0	1	6	0
1677	2	2	0	1	8	0

An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and *Malt* in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 exclusive.

Year	Wheat qr.			Malt qr.		
	l.	*s.*	*d.*	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*
1678	2	19	0	1	8	8
1679	3	0	0	1	6	8
1680	2	5	0	1	2	8
1681	2	6	8	1	4	8
1682	2	4	0	1	8	0
1683	2	0	0	1	8	8
1684	2	4	0	1	5	4
*1685	2	6	8	1	8	0
1686	1	14	0	1	5	4
1687	1	5	2	1	4	0
1688	2	6	0	1	2	0
1689	1	10	0	1	0	0
1690	1	14	8		19	4
1691	1	14	0		17	4
1692	2	6	8	1	4	4
1693	3	7	8	1	10	0
1694	3	4	0	1	12	0
1695	2	13	0	1	12	0
1696	3	11	0	1	8	0
1697	3	0	0	1	8	0
1698	3	8	4	1	12	0
1699	3	4	0	1	19	4
1700	2	0	0	1	11	4
1701	1	17	8	1	4	0
1702	1	9	6	1	8	0
1703	1	16	0	1	3	4
1704	2	6	6	1	8	0
*1705	1	10	0	1	6	0
1706	1	6	0	1	2	0
1707	1	8	6	1	3	4
1708	2	1	6	1	8	0
1709	3	18	6	1	13	4
1710	3	18	0	1	16	0
1711	2	14	0	1	15	4
1712	2	6	4	1	10	8
1713	2	11	0	1	7	0
1714	2	10	4	1	9	4

1715

An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and *Malt* in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 exclusive.

Year	Wheat qr. l.	s.	d.	Malt qr. l.	s.	d.
1715	2	3	0	1	10	8
1716	2	8	0	1	8	0
1717	2	5	8	1	5	4
1718	1	18	10	1	4	8
1719	1	15	0	1	6	8
1720	1	17	0	1	11	4
1721	1	17	6	1	8	4
1722	1	16	0	1	2	8
1723	1	14	8	1	3	8
1724	1	17	0	1	10	0
*1725	2	8	6	1	8	0
1726	2	6	0	1	8	0
1727	2	2	0	1	8	0
1728	2	14	6	1	12	0
1729	2	6	10	1	15	4
1730	1	16	6	1	7	0
1731	1	12	10	1	0	5
1732	1	6	8	1	5	8
1733	1	8	4	1	2	8
1734	1	18	10	1	2	8
1735	2	3	0	1	2	8
1736	2	0	4	1	4	0
1737	1	18	0	1	6	8
1738	1	15	6	1	8	0
1739	1	18	6	1	6	0
1740	2	10	8	1	12	0
1741	2	6	8	1	12	8
1742	1	14	0	1	10	8
1743	1	4	10	1	8	8
1744	1	4	10	1	4	8
*1745	1	7	6	1	3	4
1746	1	19	0	1	2	4
1747	1	14	10	1	2	8
1748	1	17	0	1	3	4
1749	1	17	0	1	5	4
1750	1	12	6	1	5	4
1751	1	18	6	1	6	0

An account of the true Market-price of *Wheat* and *Malt* in *Windsor* Market from 1595 inclusive to 1765 exclusive.

Year	Wheat qr. l.	s.	d.	Malt qr. l.	s.	d.
1752	2	1	10	1	7	4
1753	2	4	8	1	7	4
1754	1	14	8	1	8	0
1755	1	13	10	1	5	4
1756	2	5	3	1	6	0
1757	3	0	0	1	16	0
1758	2	10	0	1	16	0
1759	1	19	10	1	7	4
1760	1	16	6	1	6	0
1761	1	10	3	1	5	4
1762	1	19	0	1	7	4
1763	2	0	9	1	16	0
*1764	2	6	9	1	14	0

Note. In the foregoing computations you are to know, that in every year there are two prices of Corn, the one at *Lady-day*, the other at *Michaelmas*, both which are put together and the half is taken for the common price of that year, and the tax is deducted from the price of Malt.

Since printing the former Edition the accounts for 1765 and 1766 have been obtained and are

1765	2	14	0	1	12	8
1766	2	8	6	1	14	0

That is on the average London Measure.

1765	2	2	8	1	5	$9\frac{7}{9}$
1766	1	18	$3\frac{8}{9}$	1	6	$10\frac{4}{9}$

Average of the two years

2	0	$5\frac{8}{9}$	1	6	4

A TABLE of Averages of the foregoing prices of *Wheat* and *Malt*.

Number of years and when			Averages.					
No.	from	to	Qr.	Wheat.		Qr.	Malt.	
11	1595	1606	2	1	$6\frac{1}{2}$	1	3	$9\frac{1}{2}$
20	1606	1626	2	3	$2\frac{3}{4}$	1	2	9
20	1626	1646	2	10	5	1	10	0
20	1646	1666	2	17	$5\frac{1}{4}$	1	12	$0\frac{3}{4}$
20	1666	1686	2	6	$3\frac{3}{4}$	1	6	7
20	1686	1706	2	5	$10\frac{3}{4}$	1	6	8
20	1706	1726	2	4	9	1	8	$2\frac{1}{2}$
20	1726	1746	1	17	$9\frac{3}{4}$	1	7	$0\frac{1}{2}$
19	1746	1765	2	0	$1\frac{1}{2}$	1	7	$8\frac{3}{4}$
51	1595	1646	2	5	$3\frac{1}{4}$	1	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$
40	1646	1686	2	11	$10\frac{1}{2}$	1	9	4
40	1686	1726	2	5	$3\frac{3}{4}$	1	7	$5\frac{1}{2}$
39	1726	1765	1	18	$11\frac{1}{4}$	1	7	4
91	1595	1686	2	8	$2\frac{1}{4}$	1	7	$7\frac{3}{4}$
79	1686	1765	2	2	$0\frac{1}{2}$	1	7	$4\frac{1}{2}$
170	1595	1765	2	5	4	1	7	$5\frac{1}{4}$

Theſe averages are taken to ſuch particular years, that thoſe as were ſtruck by Biſhop *Fleetwood* might ſtand here, as he hath given them; and the chaſm of 1642, 3, 4 and 5, is not here regarded; but the average of the ſixteen years from 1625 to 1642 is taken for that of the twenty years from 1625 to 1646; as it can make no great difference in the ſaid twenty, and ſcarcely any in the whole one hundred and ſeventy years.

The

The way the College comes at these prices is this: The College Baker and Brewer attend *Windsor* Market on the Market-days next before *Lady-day* and *Michaelmas*; and bring an account of the highest prices that Wheat and Malt is sold for in the Market on those days to the Provost and Fellows: and it cannot be doubted but they are taken with great care; for, according thereto the Rents are settled for the current year. It being only left to the tenant's option whether he will pay in Wheat and Malt in kind, or in Money, at the said Market-price.

As these are the prices of the best Wheat and Malt, and the bushel at *Windsor* contains nine gallons; they by no means give a true state of the mean or middle prices of the said Corn or Grain, or what the value would have been of all the Wheat fit for Bread, and all the Malt made from all the Barley fit for that purpose, supposing the whole of each to have been mixed together on two distinct heaps; or what each of them would have been worth or have sold for in each year; or what the respective averages at or for the times before noted would have been.

But yet the same may be found from them with great exactness; by deducting one ninth for the difference of the bushel above the Statute-measure, and then one ninth more from the remainder, for it hath been found that the value of all the Wheat fit for bread, if mixed together, would be eight ninths of the value of the best Wheat, and the same proportion may reasonable be supposed in Barley.

This, however, would be too tedious to do here for the whole time, but the following table shews what the general averages are, according to such calculation.

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A TABLE ſhewing the value of the quarter of middle Wheat and Malt in Windſor Market for ſeveral periods within 170 years, and for the whole time, Statute-meaſure.

Number of years and when			Averages.	
No.	from	to	Qr. Wheat.	Qr. Malt.
11	1595	1606	1 12 $10\frac{7}{9}$	18 $9\frac{5}{9}$
20	1606	1626	1 14 $1\frac{8}{9}$	17 $11\frac{6}{9}$
20	1626	1646	1 19 10	1 3 $8\frac{4}{9}$
20	1646	1666	2 5 $4\frac{5}{9}$	1 5 4
20	1666	1686	1 16 $7\frac{1}{9}$	1 1 0
20	1686	1706	1 16 $3\frac{1}{9}$	1 1 $0\frac{7}{9}$
20	1706	1726	1 15 $4\frac{2}{9}$	1 2 $3\frac{4}{9}$
20	1726	1746	1 9 $10\frac{4}{9}$	1 1 $4\frac{3}{9}$
19	1746	1765	1 11 $8\frac{4}{9}$	1 1 $10\frac{8}{9}$
51	1595	1646	1 15 $9\frac{2}{9}$	1 0 $1\frac{3}{9}$
40	1646	1686	2 0 $11\frac{7}{9}$	1 3 $2\frac{1}{9}$
40	1686	1726	1 15 $9\frac{5}{9}$	1 1 $8\frac{1}{9}$
39	1726	1765	1 10 $9\frac{5}{9}$	1 1 $7\frac{1}{9}$
91	1595	1686	1 18 $0\frac{8}{9}$	1 1 $10\frac{1}{9}$
79	1686	1765	1 13 $2\frac{5}{9}$	1 1 $7\frac{5}{9}$
170	1595	1765	1 15 $9\frac{8}{9}$	1 1 $8\frac{1}{9}$

From the foregoing accounts, and the laſt table, it is obſervable, that the prices of Wheat and Malt have not been higher ſince the Bounty hath been paid, which was firſt given in 1689; but on the contrary, Wheat hath been conſiderably cheaper on the whole, and continually on the decline; notwithſtanding the Export hath continued to increaſe, and there is reaſon to believe, Bread made of Wheat is

become more generally the food of the labouring part of the people than before the Bounty was given*, which difference in the price of Wheat is explained below, viz.

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
From 1595 to 1686 Average —	1	18	0
1686 to 1726 Average ———	1	15	9
Leſs for the firſt 40 years ——	0	2	3
From 1595 to 1686 Average —	1	18	0
1726 to 1765 Average —	1	10	9
Leſs for the laſt 39 years —	0	7	3
From 1595 to 1686 Average ———	1	18	0
1686 to 1765 Average ———	1	13	2
Leſs for the laſt 79 years ———	0	4	10

and if we compare the Average of the forty years immediately before that in which the Bounty took place, with the average of the whole time ſince, the difference appears ſtill greater,

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
From 1646 to 1686 Average ———	2	0	11
1686 to 1765 Average ——	1	13	2
Leſs for the laſt 79 years ———	0	7	9

and hereby the utility and good effects of the Bounty are manifeſted, in that Tillage hath been thereby ſo encouraged and improved as to make Wheat cheaper at home, and at the ſame time, bring large ſums into the Kingdom for the Corn exported, of which the following accounts have been laid before Parliament.

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* See ſupp. c. 5. ſec. 16.

An account of the quantity of Corn exported from *England*, from *Michaelmas* 1696 to *Chriſtmas* 1764, diſtinguiſhing each year.

Years.	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal.		Rye		Wheat	
	quarters.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
To *Mich.* 1697	32,855	–	51,811	5	295	3	2,596	4	14,698	6
Ditto 1698	30,984	6	44,526	6	151	7	1,275	2	6,857	1
*Chriſtm.** 1698	5	–	2,059	–	20	5	68	–	28	7
1699	75	–	1,511	3	301	6	405	–	557	2
‡1700	25,896	5	37,571	4	391	1	27,231	–	49,056	5
1701	21,953	2	50,447	1	285	5	43,917	–	98,323	7
1702	16,280	1	71,856	6	89	4	51,710	2	90,230	4
1703	71,523	7	123,291	2	159	2	58,438	4	106,615	4
1704	30,729	4	102,873	7	219	7	29,284	7	90,313	5
1705	21,386	6	137,396	2	100	4	24,059	4	96,185	1
1706	10,221	3	141,084	4	62	2	49,892	2	188,332	3

* No Export for one year. ‡ No Bounty for about ten months.

Account of Corn exported continued.

Years.	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal.		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
*1707	4,771	3	111,153	1	103	7	34,032	–	74,155	1
1708	29,937	6	97,789	3	67	6	4,720	3	83,406	3
1709	40,512	6	139,934	4	37	5	166,512	5	169,679	7
‡1710	5,744	5	79,530	–	125	1	12,215	6	13,924	1
1711	8,412	6	139,975	7	321	4	37,957	4	76,949	–
1712	19,838	5	191,624	5	303	5	17,735	3	145,191	–
1713	52,542	–	217,975	7	1,376	3	38,625	7	176,227	–
1714	18,579	5	220,274	7	129	0	20,455	–	174,821	–
1715	5,080	1	103,365	1	303	5	31,161	2	166,490	2
1716	14,857	–	226,617	–	719	6	40,123	1	74,926	1
1717	18,435	7	251,083	1	404	1	23,031	6	22,953	7
1718	71,139	7	303,133	3	868	5	49,416	6	71 800	–

Account

* Bounty on Oatmeal commenced. ‡ No Export for one year.

Account of Corn exported continued.

Years.	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat.	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1719	9,649	3	357,499	1	219	3	45,502	2	127,762	4
1720	4,505	6	253,509	6	3,471	4	49,241	3	83,084	2
1721	11,608	3	338,942	6	577	7	69,697	5	81,632	3
1722	37,528	7	366,728	2	324	4	42,579	–	178,880	3
1723	45,789	6	305,063	5	541	5	12,737	6	157,719	6
1724	10,298	5	241,895	–	516	4	23,441	4	245,864	6
1725	13,782	6	294,025	1	1,447	4	20,539	5	204,413	3
1726	20,017	1	335,925	5	1,412	6	18,835	2	142,183	3
1727	8,688	4	241,428	4	2,204	7	9,169	3	30,315	3
1728	198	2	195,340	6	1,383	2	13	5	3,817	–
1729	4,650	4	130,743	7	2,541	–	1,460	3	18,993	3
1730	14,982	3	179,446	2	4,479	2	12,394	4	93,970	7

Account

Account of Corn exported continued.

Year	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1731	13,562	2	177,699	4	1,808	1	21,089	7	130,025	2
1732	13,874	6	161,075	4	1,274	7	15,535	5	202,058	4
1733	37,598	–	203,115	–	1,487	4	28,155	1	427,199	–
1734	70,224	5	233,124	–	3,028	6	10,735	–	498,196	4
1735	57,520	3	219,781	7	1,920	6	1,329	4	153,343	5
1736	6,860	1	192,602	4	1,196	5	1,220	5	118,170	7
1737	23,669	5	103,718	2	1,921	4	7,849	3	461,602	–
1738	70,689	6	188,607	7	1,777	3	36,159	1	580,596	4
1739	54,447	1	191,876	6	1,116	3	29,791	2	279,542	4
1740	24,036	6	145,527	5	2,571	7	8,979	4	54,390	4
*1741	6,614	1	123,357	6	1,106	6	7,622	1	45,416	7
1742	11,482	4	189,525	7	1,380	2	63,272	2	293,259	6

Account

* No Export for one year.

Account of Corn exported continued.

Years.	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1743	34,995	1	219,217	5	1,882	3	88,272	7	371 431	3
1744	20,090	–	219,862	4	1,657	6	74,169	1	231,984	5
1745	95,878	7	219,354	6	9,770	3	83,966	2	324.839	5
1746	158,719	3	282,024	6	20,203	–	45,782	3	130,646	2
1747	103,140	2	361,289	3	2,122	4	92,718	3	266,906	7
1748	73,857	–	349,363	–	3,768	4	103.891	4	543 387	5
1749	52,621	3	355,469	5	1,281	2	106,312	4	629,049	–
1750	224,500	7	330,754	2	4,283	4	99,049	3	947,602	1
1751	32,698	–	256,547	4	2,476	2	71,048	4	661,416	4
1752	106,331	3	287,578	6	1,590	1	57,847	2	429,279	4
1753	67,049	–	274,424	7	7,012	1	24.835	7	299,608	7
1754	47,776	3	321,995	–	2,330	2	42,915	1	356,270	1

Account

Account of Corn exported continued.

Years.	Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1755	32,836	–	34,568	6	1,112	2	43,441	7	237,459	2
*1756	26,938	5	236,925	6	2,310	4	29,968	7	101,936	4
‡1757	7,094	7	56,164	2	4,417	6	907	1	11,226	–
1758	691	–	10,728	1	1,831	4	—	–	9,233	6
1759	22,862	4	166,079	–	3,134	6	41,480	2	226,426	–
1760	34,592	4	224,195	–	2,338	4	52,776	4	390,710	4
1761	97,897	1	279,051	5	2,839	6	57,571	1	440,746	2
1762	130,873	–	254,429	5	1,368	4	28,410	2	294,500	–
1763	38,390	1	165,494	–	1,664	4	12,933	7	427,074	3
1764	9,218	6	223,220	5	1,101	–	27,690	1	396,537	5

Account

* *Chriſtmas* 1756 to *March* 1759 no Export

‡ Import duty free to *Auguſt*, about eight months

Totals of the foregoing account of Corn exported, diſtinguiſhing each ſort.

Years.		Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
from	to	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1697	1706	251,689	7	623,345	4	2,015	4	238,985	7	552,867	2
1706	1726	433,237	2	4,381,205	–	11,922	1	789,618	6	2,518,213	4
1726	1746	590,080	6	3,871,332	4	45,932	3	520,020	6	4,461,337	4
1746	1765	1,268,088	1	4,777,303	6	67,186	4	939,580	7	6,800,017	1
1697	1765	2,543,096	0	13,653,186	6	127,056	4	2,488,206	2	14,332,435	3

Amount of all the Corn exported.

Years.					per annum		
from	to	No.	quarters	b.	quarters	b.	
1697	1706	9	1,668,904	–	185,433	6	
1706	1726	20	8,134,196	5	406,709	2	Average of the laſt
1726	1746	20	9,488,703	7	474,435	1	39 years, viz.
1746	1765	19	13,852,176	3	729,061	7	} 598,484 Qrs.
1697	1765	68	33,143,980	7	487,411	3	

Average of the quantity of each ſpecies of Grain annually exported, and the value of the middle quarter thereof.

Quantity.

Years.		Barley		Malt		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
from	to	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1697	1706	27,965	4	69,260	5	223	7	26,554	0	61,429	6
1706	1726	21,661	3	219.060	3	596	0	39,480	7	125,910	5
1726	1746	29,504	–	193,566	5	2,296	5	26,001	0	223,066	7
1746	1765	66,741	4	251,437	0	3,536	1	49.451	5	357,895	5
1697	1765	37,398	4	200,782	1	1,868	4	36,591	2	210,771	–

Price.

from	to	Barley			Malt.			Oats			Rye.			Wheat		
1697	1706	0	16	6	1	0	1	0	12	$4\frac{1}{2}$	1	4	2	1	16	3
1706	1726	0	18	8	1	2	3	0	14	0	1	3	7	1	15	4
1726	1746	0	17	9	1	1	4	0	13	$3\frac{3}{4}$	0	19	11	1	9	10
1746	1765	0	18	3	1	1	10	0	13	8	1	1	1	1	11	8
1697	1765	0	18	0	1	1	7	0	13	6	1	2	0	1	13	2

Note, The prices of Wheat and Malt in the laſt page are taken from the table-page 105, the price of Barley is the ſame as Malt, deducting 3s. 7d. per quarter for making: the price of Oats is calculated at three-fourths of the price of Barley; and the price of Rye is calculated at two-thirds of the price of Wheat, which proportions are frequently, or rather generally found between their reſpective prices.

The ſaid price of Malt however is to be underſtood of that made for home conſumption only; for, by Stat. 3 G. 2. c. 7. ſec. 14 and 15. *three* quarters of Malt is to be allowed for every *two* quarters of Barley when malted for exportation, and the Bounty is paid accordingly.

Now two quarters of Barley having been worth on the average only 36s. we ought not to ſuppoſe three quarters of the Malt ſet down in the ſaid account as exported, worth more, *i. e.* 12s. per quarter.

Here follow the accounts of the ſums paid for Bounties on the foregoing quantities of Corn exported.

Account of the total amounts of the ſeveral Bounties paid for Corn exported from *England* from 1697 to 1706, being NINE years, with the annual averages.

	qrs.	b.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Barley —	251,689	7 —	2	6 —	31,461	4	8¾
Malt —	623,345	4 —	2	6 —	77,918	3	9
Oatmeal	2,015	4 —	2	6 —	251	18	9
Rye —	238,985	7 —	3	6 —	41,822	10	7¾
Wheat —	552,867	2 —	5	0 —	138,216	16	3
Quarters	1,668,904	0			£. 289,670	14	0¾
Averages	185,433	6			£. 32,185	12	8

Account of the total amounts of the ſeveral Bounties paid for Corn exported from *England* from 1706 to 1726, being TWENTY years, with the annual averages.

	qrs.	b.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Barley —	433,237	2	— 2	6 —	54,154	13	1½
Malt —	4,381,205	0	— 2	6 —	547,650	12	6
Oats —	11,922	1	— 2	6 —	1,490	5	3¾
Rye —	789,618	6	— 3	6 —	138,183	5	7
Wheat —	2,518,213	4	— 5	0 —	629,553	7	6
Quarters	8,134,196	5		£.	1,371,032	4	0¾
Averages	406,709	2		£.	68,551	12	2

Account of the total amounts of the ſeveral Bounties paid for Corn exported from *England* from 1726 to 1746, being TWENTY years, with the annual averages.

	qrs.	b.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Barley —	590,080	6	— 2	6 —	73,760	1	10¾
Malt —	3,871,332	4	— 2	6 —	483,916	11	3
Oatmeal	45,932	3	— 2	6 —	5,741	10	11¼
Rye —	520,020	6	— 3	6 —	91,003	12	7½
Wheat	4,461,337	4	— 5	0 —	1,115,334	7	6
Quarters	9,488,703	7		£.	1,769,756	4	2
Averages	474,435	1		£.	88,487	16	2

Account

Account of the total amounts of the several Bounties paid for Corn exported from *England* from 1746 to 1765, being NINETEEN years, with the annual averages.

	qrs.	b.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Barley	1,268,088	1 —	2	6 —	158,511	0	3¾
Malt	4,777,303	6 —	2	6 —	579,162	19	4½
Oatmeal	67,186	4 —	2	6 —	8,398	6	3
Rye —	939,580	7 —	3	6 —	164,426	13	1
Wheat	6,800,017	1 —	5	0 —	1,700,004	5	7½
Quart.	13,852,176	3			£. 2,628,503	4	7¾
Averages	729,061	7			£. 138,342	5	6

Account

An account of the total amounts and annual averages of the feveral Bounties which have been paid for Corn exported from *England* from 1697 to 1765, being SIXTY-EIGHT years.

Names	Quantities.		Bounty per qr.	Sums total			Annual.		
	qrs.	b.	*s.* *d.*	*l.*	*s*	*d.*	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*
Barley	2,543,096	–	2 6	317,887	0	0	4,674	16	2
Malt	13,653,186	6	2 6	1,706,648	6	10½	25,097	15	5
Oatmeal	127,056	4	2 6	15,882	1	3	233	11	4
Rye	2,488,206	2	3 6	435,436	1	11	6,403	9	5
Wheat	14,332,435	3	5 0	3,583,108	16	10½	52,692	15	5
Total qrs.	33,143,980	7		£.6,058,962	6	11			
Ann. Export	487,411	3				Annual Bounty	89,102	7	9

Note, In all theſe calculations the Export from *Michaelmas* to *Chriſtmas* 1696 is taken as part of 1697, which is incluſive, and 1765 excluſive.

It would have given us great pleaſure to have been able to have begun the foregoing accounts from 1689, when the Bounty took place; but we do not find them made up further back, and it is moſt probable that before 1697, the Export was not conſiderable enough for notice; as a courſe of nine years cannot be thought too long to have elapſed before the laws could operate ſo far, as to enable *us* to export any material quantity, *who* before they took place, uſed to be frequently large *Importers*.†

During the foregoing period of ſixty eight years the *Export* hath with ſome few exceptions been prohibited four ſeveral times, *viz.* from *Feb.* 10, $169\frac{8}{9}$ for one year, from *Nov.* 18, 1709, to *Sept.* 29, 1710; from *Dec.* 1740, to *Dec.* 25, 1741; and from *Dec.* 1756, to *Dec.* 27, 1757. Which laſt prohibition was prolonged to *Dec.* 25, 1758, and continued to *March* 25, 1769. And from *Feb.* 12, $\frac{1699}{1700}$, to *Sept.* 29, 1700, no Bounty was paid on any Corn exported; nor was any payable on Oatmeal exported till *May* 1, 1707.

Which prohibitions, non-payment of Bounty, and none being paid on Oatmeal at firſt, would all together, make a conſiderable deduction from the monies in the preceeding pages, could we diſtinguiſh their amount; but no account thereof as we can learn hath been made out by Authority, no more than of ſuch grain as hath been exported, for which no Bounty is at any time payable. For theſe reaſons, and becauſe it is intended in theſe obſervations to give the objections to paying the Bounty their full force, no notice is taken thereof in theſe accounts, and the Bounty is ſuppoſed to have been paid on all the Corn exported of every ſort for the whole *ſixty-eight* years.

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* See Note p. 38. and ſupp. ch. 2. ſec. 12 and 13.

An account of the quantity of Corn imported into *England*, from *Michaelmas* 1696 to *Chriſtmas* 1764, diſtinguiſhing each year.

Years.	Barley		Oats		Oatmeal.		Rye		Wheat	
	quarters.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
To *Mich.* 1697	211	4	—	—	1	4	—	—	400	—
Ditto 1698	150	—	520	—	—	—	3,622	2	845	—
Chriſtm. 1698	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	844	—
1699	—	—	1,280	4	—	5	350	—	486	3
1700	—	—	234	4	—	—	—	4	4	6
1701	—	—	20	4	—	—	—	—	1	1
1702	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1703	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	50	—
1704	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6
1705	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1706	—	—	98	4	480	4	—	—	77	1

Account

Account of Corn imported continued.

Years.	Barley		Oats		Oatmeal.		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1707	—	–	12	–	—	–	—	–	—	–
1708	—	–	70	4	—	–	—	–	86	4
1709	606	–	1	–	—	–	—	–	1,552	3
1710	576	–	139	3	113	3	—	2	400	–
1711	—	–	—	–	—	–	—	–	—	–
1712	—	–	—	–	—	–	—	–	—	–
1713	—	–	—	–	—	–	—	–	—	–
1714	—	–	21	–	—	–	—	–	15	7
1715	—	–	—	–	—	–	—	–	—	4
1716	—	–	—	–	—	–	—	–	—	–
1717	—	–	62	–	—	–	—	–	—	–
1718	—	–	21	2	—	–	—	–	—	–
1719	—	–	300	–	—	–	—	–	20	–
1720	252	–	2	–	—	–	—	–	—	–
1721	445	–	—	–	—	–	—	–	—	–

Account

Account of Corn imported continued.

Years.	Barley		Oats		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat.	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1722	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1723	—	—	112	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1724	—	—	61,630	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
1725	—	—	2,152	4	—	—	—	—	148	2
1726	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	4	12	2
1727	100	—	15	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
1728	11,745	—	70,070	1	—	—	42,205	6	74,574	2
1729	17,201	6	184,071	—	21	3	132,045	7	40,315	2
1730	386	1	95,149	4	—	—	—	—	75	7
1731	3,503	—	15,892	7	—	3	—	—	4	—
1732	—	—	12,044	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1733	2	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	7	4
1734	1	3	9	—	—	—	—	—	6	5
1735	—	—	6,439	—	—	—	—	—	9	1
1736	—	—	267	5	—	—	—	3	16	5

Account

Account of Corn imported continued.

Years.	Barley		Oats		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1737	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	32	4
1738	—	7	21	3	—	—	—	—	2	5
1739	—	3	32	—	—	—	—	—	22	7
1740	1	2	1,333	3	—	—	1,090	—	5,468	5
1741	15,132	—	84,821	7	—	—	11,012	4	7,540	2
1742	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	1	7
1743	—	—	12	6	—	—	—	—	2	5
1744	—	—	67	6	—	—	—	—	2	6
1745	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	5	—
1746	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1747	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1748	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2
1749	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	382	—
1750	—	—	20	3	—	—	—	—	279	5
1751	—	—	2,291	1	—	—	—	—	3	—

Account

Account of Corn imported continued.

Years.	Barley		Oats		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1752	—	2	250	–	10	–	—	–	—	–
1753	—	–	33	3	2	4	—	–	—	–
1754	—	–	52,421	7	—	–	—	–	201	–
1755	—	–	1,591	2	292	–	—	–	—	–
1756	4	6	41,390	–	5,280	4	1,695	–	5	–
1757	5,781	1	7,460	2	298	3	7,861	7	130,343	2
1758	9,752	2	12,276	2	1,563	7	—	–	19,039	7
1759	42	4	321	4	13	2	—	–	82	1
1760	—	–	—	–	3	6	—	–	—	–
1761	—	–	21	–	—	–	—	–	—	–
1762	942	3	16,570	1	829	6	—	–	56	2
1763	3,227	7	217,637	5	836	5	—	–	8	1
1764	5,110	2	122,477	3	11,892	3	—	–	1	1
										Totals

Totals of the foregoing account of Corn imported, distinguishing each sort.

Years.		Barley		Oats		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
from	to	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1697	1706	361	7	2,056	4	4	5	3,972	6	2,633	–
1706	1726	1,879	–	64,622	6	593	7	—	6	2,313	–
1726	1746	48,073	6	470,314	2	21	6	186,354	–	128,087	3
1746	1765	24,901	3	474,762	1	21,023	–	9,556	7	150,407	5
1697	1765	75,216	–	1,011,755	5	21,643	2	199,884	3	283,441	–

Amount of all the Corn imported.

Years.					per annum	
from	to	No.	quarters	b.	quarters	b.
1697	1706	9	9,028	6	1,003	1
1706	1726	20	69,409	3	3,470	4
1726	1746	20	832,851	1	41,642	4
1746	1765	19	680,651	–	35,823	6
1697	1765	68	1,591,940	2	23,410	7

Average of the quantity of each ſpecies of Grain annually imported.

Years.			Barley		Oats		Oatmeal		Rye		Wheat	
from	to	No.	qrs.	b	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.	qrs.	b.
1697	1706	9	40	2	228	4	—	4	441	3	292	4
1706	1726	20	94	–	3,231	1	29	5	—	–	115	5
1726	1746	20	2,403	4	23,515	6	1	1	9,317	4	6,404	2
1746	1765	19	1,310	4	24,987	6	1,106	4	503	–	7,916	2
1697	1765	68	1,106	–	14,878	7	318	2	2,939	4	4,168	2

Note, The importation of Malt is prohibited, and yet 381 qrs. 4 b. have been imported ſince 1697, which are included in the above account of Barley: And although the Oats, are here inſerted, no notice is taken in the foregoing account of Exports, of either Oats, Beans, Peaſe, or any Grain, on which no Bounty is given; the quantity of the firſt, it muſt be acknowledged, is very ſmall, but the quantities of the two laſt are at ſometimes pretty conſiderable.

General

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of *Barley* and *Malt* exported and imported and the annual averages thereof compared.

Years.			General Accounts					
from	to	No.	Exported		Imported		Exports exceed	
1697	1706	9	875,035	3	361	7	874,673	4
1706	1726	20	4,814,442	2	1,879	0	4,812,563	2
1726	1746	20	4,461,413	2	48,073	6	4,413,339	4
1746	1765	19	6,045,391	7	24,901	3	6,020,490	4
1697	1765	68	16,196,282	6	75,216	0	16,121,066	6
Years.			Annual Averages					
from	to	No.	Exported		Imported		Exports exceed	
1697	1706	9	97,225	1	40	2	97,185	7
1706	1726	20	240,721	6	94	0	240,627	6
1726	1746	20	223,070	5	2,403	4	220,667	1
1746	1765	19	318,178	4	1,310	4	316,868	0
1697	1765	68	238,180	5	1,106	–	237,073	7

General

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of *Oatmeal* exported and *Oats** and *Oatmeal* imported, and the annual averages thereof compared

Years			General Accounts					
from	to	No.	Exported		Imported		Imports exceed	
1697	1706	9	2,015	4	2,061	1	45	5
1706	1726	20	11,922	1	65,216	5	53,294	4
1726	1746	20	45,932	3	470,336	–	424,403	5
1746	1765	19	67,186	4	495,785	1	428,598	5
1697	1765	68	127,056	4	1,033,398	7	906,342	3
Years			Annual Averages					
from	to	No.	Exports		Imports		Imports exceed	
1697	1706	9	223	7	229	–	5	1
1706	1726	20	596	–	3,260	6	2,664	6
1726	1746	20	2,296	4	23,516	7	20,220	3
1746	1765	19	3,536	1	26,094	2	22,558	1
1697	1765	68	1,868	3	15,197	1	13,328	6

General

* *Note*, Two quarters of *Oats* make one quarter of *Oatmeal*.

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of *Rye* exported and imported and the annual averages thereof compared.

Years.			General Accounts.					
from	to	No.	Exports		Imports		Exports exceed	
1697	1706	9	238,985	7	3,972	6	235 013	1
1706	1726	20	789,618	6	—	6	789,618	–
1726	1746	20	520 020	6	186,354	0	333,666	6
1746	1765	19	939,580	7	9,556	7	930 024	–
1697	1765	68	2 488,206	2	199,884	3	2,888,321	3
Years.			Annual Averages					
from	to	No.	Exports		Imports		Exports exceed	
1697	1706	9	26 554	–	441	3	26,112	5
1706	1726	20	39,480	7	—	–	39,480	7
1726	1746	20	26,001	–	9,317	4	16,683	4
1746	1765	19	49 451	–	503	–	48,948	–
1697	1765	68	35,591	2	2,939	4	32,651	6

General

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of all the *Wheat* exported and imported, and the annual averages thereof compared.

Years			General Accounts					
from	to	No.	Exports		Imports		Exports exceed	
1697	1706	9	552,867	2	2,633	–	550,234	2
1706	1726	20	2,518,213	4	2,313	–	2,515,900	4
1726	1746	20	4,461,337	4	128,087	3	4,333,250	1
1746	1765	19	6,800,017	1	150,407	5	6,649,609	4
1697	1765	68	14,332,435	3	283,441	–	14,048,994	3
Years			Annual Averages					
from	to	No.	Exports		Imports		Exports exceed	
1697	1706	9	61,429	6	292	4	61,137	2
1706	1726	20	125,910	5	115	5	125,795	–
1726	1746	20	223,066	7	6,404	2	216,662	5
1746	1765	19	357,895	5	7,916	2	349,979	3
1697	1765	68	210,771	–	4,168	2	206,602	6

General

General Accounts of the foregoing quantities of all the Corn exported and imported, and the annual averages thereof compared.

Years.			General Accounts				
			Exports		Imports		Exports exceed
from	to	No.					
1697	1706	9	1,668,904	-	9,028	6	1,659,875 2
1706	1726	20	8,134,196	5	69,409	3	8,064,787 2
1726	1746	20	9,488,703	7	832,851	1	8,655,852 6
1746	1765	19	13,852,176	3	680,651	0	13,171,525 3
1697	1765	68	33,143,980	7	1,591,940	2	31,552,040 5

Years.			Annual Averages.				
			Exports		Imports		Exports exceed
from	to	No.					
1697	1706	9	185,433	6	1,003	1	184,430 5
1706	1726	20	406,709	2	3,470	4	403,238 6
1726	1746	20	474,435	1	41,642	4	432,792 5
1746	1765	19	729,061	7	35,823	6	693,238 1
1697	1765	68	487,411	3	23,410	7	464,000 4

From the five laſt pages may be ſeen the progreſs of the Export and Import from time to time, and for the whole time from 1697 to 1765, as to QUANTITY: we ſhall preſently ſee the value in MONEY,

whereby will appear what benefit and ſavings the nation hath received therefrom.

But before the accounts are produced, it may be proper to ſhew upon what principles they are ſtated, that it may appear that in thoſe, as well as in all the reſt of the foregoing papers, nothing is taken for granted or inhanced in favour of the Export, but that the moſt moderate principles are adopted throughout, with a view, if poſſible, to obviate every objection.

Firſt, then the Debtor ſides of the accounts conſiſt of a charge of the Bounty for all the Corn exported; and the value of all the Corn imported, rated at thoſe high prices at which the low duties are to commence.*

The firſt article might have been leſſened by deducting the Bounties for 1700, and in ſome other years, when none were paid, and for Oatmeal till 1707.

And the Corn imported might very juſtly have been left out of the accounts, ſince it is moſt probable, had there been no Export the Import would have been much larger *.

Secondly, the credit ſides of the accounts conſiſt of the value of all the Corn exported, rated only at the average prices ‡ as noted pages 114 and 115. And to the profits at the foot of the ſaid account, reduced into annual averages, are added the ſavings in the price of Wheat eat at home, which for the firſt

* See page 83.

* See Note, page 38. and ſupp. ch. 2. ſec. 13 and 14.

‡ It might, with great reaſon, have been valued ſomewhat higher, it is ſeldom ſhipped ſo low as the average price; and it may be queſtioned if the Bounty, one time with another, pays freight, commiſſion and all other incident charges.

firſt twenty-nine years is valued only at *nine pence*, and the laſt thirty-nine years at only *one ſhilling and ſeven pence* per quarter, although it appears page 106 to have been cheaper by *two ſhillings and three pence* during the firſt, and *ſeven ſhillings and three pence* during the ſecond period, than it was from 1595 to 1686.

Dr. Account of Corn exported and imported from 1697 to 1706 being NINE years.

						l.	s.	d.
Bounty as per page 115					—	289,670	14	0
Imported as per page 125								
Barley	—	361	7	at 32 0	—	579	0	0
Oats	—	2,056	4	— 16 0	—	1,645	4	0
Oatmeal	—	4	5	— 32 0	—	7	8	0
Rye	—	3,972	6	— 40 0	—	7,945	10	0
Wheat	—	2,633	0	— 53 4	—	7,021	6	8
Quarters		9,028	6		£.	306,869	2	8

Cr.

						l.	s.	d.
Exported as per page 113								
Barley	—	251,689	7	at 16 6	—	207,644	2	11
Malt	—	623,345	4	— 12 0	—	374,007	6	0
Oatmeal		2,015	4	— 24 9*	—	2,494	3	7
Rye	—	238,985	7	— 24 2	—	288,777	0	3
Wheat	—	552,867	2	— 36 3	—	1,002,071	17	9
Quarters		1,668,904	0		£.	1,874,994	10	6
		Deduct as above Dr.				306,869	2	8
		Gained in nine years				1,568,125	7	10
		That is per annum				174,236	3	1
To which add 9d. per qr. ſaved on 3,750,000 Wheat eat in *England*						140,625	0	0
Total gained and ſaved per annum						314,861	3	1

Dr.

* *Note,* Oatmeal is double the price of Oats.

Dr. Account of Corn exported and imported from 1706 to 1726 being TWENTY years.

				l.	s.	d.
Bounty as per page 116				1,371,032	4	0
Imported as per page 125						
Barley —	1,879	0 at	32 0 —	3,006	8	0
Oats —	64,622	6 —	16 0 —	51,698	4	0
Oatmeal	593	7 —	32 0 —	950	4	0
Rye —	—	6 —	40 0 —	1	10	0
Wheat —	2,313	0 —	53 4 —	6,168	0	0
Quarters	69,409	3	£.	1,432,856	10	0

Per Contra Cr.						
Exported as per page 113						
Barley —	433,237	2 at	18 8 —	404,354	15	4
Malt —	4,381,205	0 —	12 0 —	2,628,723	0	0
Oatmeal	11,922	1 —	28 0 —	16,690	19	6
Rye —	789,618	6 —	23 7 —	931,092	2	2
Wheat	2,518,213	4 —	35 4 —	4,448,843	17	0
Quarters	8,134,196	5	£.	8,429,704	14	0
Deduct as above Dr.				1,432,856	10	0
Gained in twenty years				6,996,848	4	0
That is per annum				349,842	8	2
To which add 9d. per qr. saved on 3,750,000 Wheat eat in *England*.				140,625	0	0
Total gained and saved per annum				490,467	8	2

Dr.

Dr. Account of Corn exported and imported from 1726 to 1746, being TWENTY years.

						l.	s.	d.
Bounty paid as per page 116						1,769,756	4	2
Imported as per page 125								
Barley —	48,073	6	at 32	0	—	76,918	0	0
Oats —	470,314	2	— 16	0	—	376,251	8	0
Oatmeal —	21	6	— 32	0	—	34	16	0
Rye ——	186,354	0	— 40	0	—	372,708	0	0
Wheat —	128,087	3	— 53	4	—	341,566	6	8
Quarters	832,851	1			£.	2,937,234	14	10

Per Contra Cr.

Exported as per page 113								
Barley —	590,080	6	at 17	9	—	523,696	13	3
Malt	3,871,332,	4	— 12	0	—	2,322,793	10	0
Oatmeal	45,932	3	— 26	7	—	61,051	15	4
Rye —	520,020	6	— 19	11	—	517,853	19	11
Wheat	4,461,337	4	— 29	10	—	6,654,828	8	9
Quarters	9,488,703	7			£.	10,080,224	7	3
Deduct as above Dr,						2,937,234	14	10
Gained in twenty years						7,142,989	12	5
That is per annum						357,149	9	7
To which add 1s. 7d. per qr. saved on 3,750,000 Wheat eat in *England*						296,875	0	0
Total gained and saved per annum						654,024	9	7

Dr.

Dr. Account of Corn exported and imported from 1746 to 1765 being NINETEEN years.

| | | |

Totals of the Gains and Savings per annum, brought forward from page 133, 134, 135, 136.

No. Years	from	to	Gains l.	s.	d.	Savings l.	s.	d.	Totals l.	s.	d.
9	1697	1706	174,236	3	1	140,625	0	0	314,861	3	1
20	1706	1726	349,842	8	2	140,625	0	0	490,467	8	2
20	1726	1746	375,149	9	7	296,875	0	0	654,024	9	7
19	1746	1765	651,079	9	7	296,875	0	0	947,954	9	7
29	1697	1706	295,343	18	4	140,625	0	0	435,968	18	4
39	1726	1765	500,346	2	11	296,875	0	0	797,221	2	11
68	1697	1765	412,918	14	6	230,239	0	0	643,157	14	6

By the laſt page it appears, at one view, what the totals of the gains and ſavings made by the Exportation of Corn for *ſixty-eight* years have been, and how the ſame have increaſed during that period, the value of all the Corn imported, and amount of all the Bounties being deducted.

And theſe accounts are founded on facts; which, it ſhould ſeem, cannot be in the leaſt controverted, the moſt material doubt that can be raiſed againſt them would be to aſſert, that, however fully and clearly they may be ſtated, however certain the facts on which they are founded are, yet there can be no dependence thereon, unleſs we could know that an equal quantity of Corn hath been conſumed ſince, to what was conſumed before the Bounty took place; and that the number of Men and other animals who are fed with, and live on Grain, in the year 1764, is equal to that of thoſe which was ſupported in 1689, thereby.

For although it doth appear, that Bread-Corn and all other Grain are, and have been, as cheap, or cheaper, ſince the Bounty on the Export hath been given than before; yet it may have happened by the number of the people being leſſened, or by ſome other means, that the *conſumption* of Grain in this Kingdom hath been ſo decreaſed, as that ſuch cheapneſs ſhould not at all, or at leaſt not wholly, be attributed to the *imaginary* increaſed quantity of Corn grown by the extenſion of Tillage ariſing from, or rather occaſioned by the encouragement given by ſuch Bounty.

This muſt undoubtedly be admitted; but then it muſt at the ſame time be alſo granted on the contrary, that it may have happened by the number of the

the people being increaſed, or by ſome other means, that the *conſumption* of Grain in the Kingdom hath been alſo increaſed during the ſaid period, and then ſuch cheapneſs ought wholly to be attributed to the *really* increaſed quantity of Corn produced by the extenſion of Tillage ariſing from, or rather occaſioned by ſuch Bounty.

The general opinion ſeems to be for the laſt of theſe propoſitions, and that the number of Men and other animals fed on Grain is greatly increaſed. But this, as to Men at leaſt, doth not appear to be the caſe; and yet there are reaſons to think they are at leaſt equal to, or ſomewhat exceed what they then were, and from the beſt authority could be obtained, that the number in *England* and *Wales* was then, and is now about SIX MILLIONS*.

The difficulties that attended this inquiry were not inconſiderable, and in making it, an opportunity was taken, in order to get at the amounts of the annual *growth* of all ſorts of Grain, to inquire what quantity of Bread they conſume per head annually, and how much of each ſort of Grain is made into Bread, and applied to other uſes, and this is the reſult of our enquiries.

That the numbers of the ſaid ſix millions, who eat the ſeveral ſorts of Corn in Bread, and the average quantities which they annually conſume per head, are as follows,

* See ſupp. ch. 3.

Numbers * of the people			qr.	b.
3,750,000	Consume annually each	Wheat	1	0
739,000		Barley	1	3
888,000		Rye	1	1
623,000		Oats	2	7

Besides that which is made into Bread, there is reason to suppose the following quantities of the above and other sorts of Grain are annually expended in other uses.

qrs	
90,000	Wheat distilled and made Starch, *&c.*
3,300,000	Barley in beer.
117,000	ditto, other uses.
2,461,500	† Oats, horses, soup, *&c.*
31,000	Rye, Tanners and hogs.
90,000	Beans and Pease, for Negroes, horses and hogs.
134,000	Pease, for Sailors and soup.
90,000	Rape and other seed, for oil.

And this exclusive of the several sorts of garden seeds and pulse eat green, of which we could form no idea.

From these last accounts, together with those in the foregoing part of this Collection, we may proceed to state the particular and general accounts of Corn consumed, exported, imported and grown annually, and the proportions they severally bear to each

* See supp. ch. 4 and 5.

† *Note*, From the year 1752 to 1765, the annual consumption of Oats in *London* only is increased above 52,000 qrs.

each other; wherein, although it may be poſſible, ſome things will be miſtaken, yet we preſume, that the whole will be rather under than above the truth.

PARTICULAR ACCOUNTS OF CORN CONSUMED, &c.

Firſt, of BARLEY,

		qrs.
Bread		1,016,125
Malt		3,300,000
Hogs and other purpoſes		117,000
Conſumed at home		4,333,125
Exported page 114 *viz.* Raw 37,398 / Malted 133,855*		171,253
Conſumed and exported		4,604,378
Imported page 126, deduct		1,106
Annual growth		4,603,272

Of which the annual Export is little more than *one twenty ſeventh* part, and that in the year 1750, which was 445,004, after reducing the Malt into Barley, being the higheſt ever known‡, was not quite *one tenth*.

Second,

* *Note*, One third of the Malt exported is deducted to reduce it into Barley.

‡ See page 111.

Second OATS.

	qrs.
Bread	1,791,225
Horſes and other purpoſes	2,461,500
Conſumed at home	4,252,725
Exported page 114	3,737*
Conſumed and exported	4,256,462
Imported page 126, deduct *viz.* Meal 636 4 / Corn 14,878 4	15,515
Annual growth	4,240,947

To which both the annual Export and Import bear a very inſignificant proportion, but the higheſt Importation which was in 1763, as per page 124, with the meal amounted to 219,310, *i. e. one nineteenth* part of the growth.

Third, RYE.

	qrs.
Bread	999,000
Other purpoſes	31,000
Conſumed at home	1,030,000
Exported page 114	36,591
Conſumed and exported	1,066,591
Imported page 126, deduct	2,939
Annual growth	1,063,652

Of

* Note, *One* quarter of Oatmeal is equal to *two* quarters of Oats.

Of which the annual Export is about *one twenty ninth* part, and that in 1706 being the higheſt Export, *viz.* 166,512 qrs. * if there is no miſtake in the accounts is more than *one ſeventh*, however the next higheſt, which was in 1749, *viz.* 106,312‡, is *one tenth*.

Fourth, WHEAT.

	qrs.
Bread	3,750,000
Other purpoſes	90,000
Conſumed at home	3,840,000
Exported page 114	210,771
Conſumed and exported	4,050,771
Imported page 126, deduct	4,168
Annual growth	4,046,603

Of which the annual Export is rather leſs than *one nineteenth* part; but the higheſt Export, *viz.* in 1750, being 947,602‡ was more than *one fifth*.

As to the remaining articles of Beans, Peaſe, Rape-ſeed, *&c.* as mentioned page 140, we ſhall not take any further account of them, nor include them in the general account of the *growth*, as the quantities there mentioned are founded more on conjecture than any of the others there noted.

GENERAL

* Page 108. ‡ Page 111.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS OF CORN CONSUMED, &c.

	Growth	Consumed	Export	Import
Barley	4,603,272	4,433,125	171,253	1,106
Oats	4,240,947	4,252,725	3,737	15,515
Rye	1,063,652	1,030,000	36,591	2,939
Wheat	4,046,603	3,840,000	210,771	4,168
	13,954,474			
Seed*	1,395,447			
	15,349,921	13,555,850	422,352‡	23,728‡

The PROPORTIONS, which all the Corn annually grown, consumed, exported, and imported, bear to each other are as under.

The EXPORT is bare one *one thirty second* part of the CONSUMPTION, *one thirty third* part of the GROWTH excluſive of the ſeed, *one thirty ſixth* part of the GROWTH, including the ſeed, and not near *one third* of the SEED itſelf, ſuppoſing it only *one tenth* of the GROWTH: nor did even the higheſt year ever known, the year 1750, when the amount of the Export

* The ſeed is called *one tenth*.

‡ The total of the Export being here only 422,352, and the Import amounting to 23,728, whereas the firſt, page 113, is 487,411, and the laſt, page 125, is only 23,410, ariſes from the Malt being reduced into Barley, and the Oatmeal into Oats, which it was not proper to do in the general accounts, the Cuſtom-houſe not having done it.

port was 1,500,220 qrs.* ſurpaſs the SEED *one twelfth part*, and yet what prodigious benefit hath the Nation reaped from the Exportation.

The IMPORT hath been about a *five hundred and ſeventy firſt* part of the CONSUMPTION and *one eighteenth* of the Export, and never equalled but a very ſmall part of the GROWTH.

The GROWTH, excluſive of the ſeed, which to ſave deducting we here omit, exceeds the conſumption *only* about *one thirty-fourth*, which confirms what is advanced page 19, and ſhews how much they are miſtaken who talk of one year's growth ſerving two, three, or four; which is the error of many ſenſible men and judicious writers, and this confirms what is advanced in the Eſſay, page 22, and proves that a *ſmall* deficiency of Crop *far* exceeds the Export.

And it muſt be allowed, that what is here ſuppoſed the annual ſurplus is not under-rated, if it be granted that the ſtock in hand at *Michaelmas* 1764 was *equal* to that in 1697, and that it could not be *more* ſeems clear, for it was found to be ſo ſmall that the Parliament thought neceſſary by act 5 G. 3. c. 31, to allow no Bounty on Export, or Duty on Import of Wheat till 24 *Auguſt*, 1765, and alſo made further proviſion to ſtop the Export, if found neceſſary, neither of which ſteps were taken in 1697, though

	qrs.
* Barley	224,500
Malt 330,754, deduct one third	220,503
Oatmeal 4,283 doubled	8,566
Rye	99,049
Wheat	947,602

As may be ſeen, page 111.

Wheat was then 3l. a quarter at *Windſor*, whereas in 1764 it was only 2l. 6s. 9d. as may be ſeen in the foregoing Regiſter.

And if we could ſuppoſe all the 1,500,220*, which was exported in the year 1750, to have been the ſurplus of the year 1749, the *growth* of that year did not exceed the annual *conſumption* ONE NINTH.

The whole view in collecting and publiſhing theſe papers, and of the obſervations made on them, is only to endeavour to ſet the ſtate of the Corn-trade, and the effects of our Corn-laws, in a true light, wherein, if we have failed, we may at leaſt hope they will tend to engage ſome other more able hand in the attempt, and be of ſome aſſiſtance to him in accompliſhing the ſame.

* See page 145.

FINIS.

A

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A SUPPLEMENT.

A

SUPPLEMENT

Containing

Several PAPERS and CALCULATIONS,

Which tend to explain and confirm what is advanced in the foregoing Tracts.

NOTE.

THE diviſion of this Supplement into Chapters and Sections was done in order to refer to it from the foregoing Tracts.

A

SUPPLEMENT.

CHAPTER I.

Of MAGAZINES.

SECTION I.

Tranſlation of a Letter from the Avoyer, or chief Magiſtrate, at Berne, *in* Switzerland, *to* ———, *relative to the Magazines for Corn and Wine there**.

SIR,

YOU aſk me for an account of the proviſions both for Corn and Wine, which are ſubſiſting in the Canton of *Berne*, and if it is true that we owe the eſtabliſhment of them to the patriotic zeal of a citizen of this Republic, who, dying without children, left his riches for that purpoſe: in regard to which, I have the honour to acquaint you, *that you have been miſinformed as to the nature of the foundation of*

* A tranſlation of this letter hath before been publiſhed in the *Muſeum Ruſticum*, vol. ii. numb. 41.

*of our Magazines**; and give me leave to add, by the way, that it is not in this little Republic, as in great States. At *Berne*, private men have very ſlender fortunes: on the contrary, the *State* by a courſe of diſintereſtedneſs and prudent œconomy in thoſe who govern, may paſs for rich, ſince the rights of the royalties only, with the rents of the eſtates, or lordſhips, of which they are poſſeſſed, both by purchaſe and conqueſt, put it in their power, and even without raiſing any ſort of tax or exciſe on the people, to lay up almoſt every year ſome ſaving in the treaſury: from thence it ariſes that the government is always both willing and able to relieve the wants of its citizens and ſubjects, and therefore ſuch foundations would, in this country, be works of ſupererogation.

§. 2. The Magiſtrates of *Berne* even flatter themſelves, that it is more honourable for them to adminiſter the revenues of the Republic in ſuch a manner, that none but itſelf ſhould be in a capacity to relieve the people, than it would be, if by augmenting the ſalaries of their officers, which they are well able to do, they ſhould become, after the example of many great States rich citizens in a poor Republic. But it is time to finiſh this long digreſſion, and to apply myſelf to ſatisfy, Sir, your curioſity: I will begin by laying before you the nature of the Magazines of Corn.

The

* The original of the words in Italic is, " que l'hiſtoire pretendue de cet honnête Citoyen et de la fondation eſt une fable faite à plaiſir, dont il n'y a pas un mot de vray."

§. 3. The People of *Berne* have two ſorts, one ſubject to great variations, the other always the ſame. There are of the firſt ſort many in the capital, and in many other parts of the Canton, which are filled, more or leſs, according as the abundance of the harveſt, and goodneſs of the grain, furniſh an opportunity; for, beſides the fixed revenue which the ſtate hath in fee-farm rents, it hath a great quantity of tithes, which are of a very caſual, and very different produce: when there are ſeveral fruitful years in *ſucceſſion*, the granaries of this ſort in the capital become full; but in other parts, if there is an appearance, towards Eaſter, of a good harveſt, the corn is ſold which is in the caſtles of the different bailiwicks, after having paid the ſeveral ſalaries to which they are made liable; and the Bailiffs, who have a certain revenue made good to them, account for the ſurplus to the chamber of œconomy at *Berne*. The Magazines of this capital, on the contrary, are never opened and ſold but in dear times; and then care is taken not to ſell to any family more than is ſufficient for its ſupply, and always below the Market price.

§. 4. As to the Magazines of the ſecond ſort, they are called the PROVISION, and were eſtabliſhed in purſuance of a convention, called the DEFFENSIONAL, which the whole Helvetic body hath entered into for thee common defence of Switzerland, in caſe of an attack from a foreign enemy. This treaty, regulating the number of troops and artillery which each Canton

is bound to furniſh, obliges them at the ſame time, to have always ready, and in ſtore, proviſion and amunition in proportion to their contingent. There are of theſe Magazines of Proviſion, as well at *Berne*, as in all the caſtles where the Bailiffs reſide: they are never either diminiſhed or increaſed, only care is taken to keep them always in good order, and to ſubſtitute good Corn in the place of that which decays. A Bailiff, who ſhould miſapply this proviſion, would be depoſed; and from time to time the deputies of *Berne*, without giving notice of their intention, viſit theſe Magazines, and cauſe the Corn to be meaſured over. Although there is ſix times more Corn in theſe Magazines than the contingent, which *Berne* furniſhes by the DEFFENSIONAL, requires, they have never taken, in times of peace, more than one fourth part in an exceeding ſcarcity; and they have had great care to refill them without delay.

§. 5. This is, Sir, in abridgement, an account of the Magazines for the proviſion of Corn in the Canton of *Berne*. Several ſhort Crops within fifteen years having cauſed the common people to ſuffer by the high price which they were obliged to give for their Bread, and the Corn which the government cauſed to be purchaſed in *Burgundy* and *Suabia*, and reſold to a great loſs, having given but little relief to the miſery of the poor, there is at preſent a project under conſideration at *Berne*, which, if it is brought to paſs, will, in all probability, prevent the ſubjects of this *State* from paying very dear for their Bread for the time to come; which is this: It is propoſed to build, in thoſe parts of the Canton which are moſt fruitful

fruitful in Corn, large *Granaries*, and at ſuch times when the abundance of the harveſt ſhall have cauſed the value of a certain meaſure of Corn to fall below a certain price, to buy up, on account of the government, all that ſhall be left for ſale in the Markets, after private perſons have done buying, to the end that the Owner, or Farmer, may be always ſure of having a certain price for his Corn, and not be under a neceſſity of being at the expence and trouble of laying up what he may have left in the Town-hall, or carrying it home again, or elſe ſelling it at too low a price to *Foreigners* in the neighbourhood, of whom the ſubjects of *Berne* are often afterwards obliged to buy it again at an exorbitant rate. The government, on the contrary, will ſell their Corn again to their ſubjects, as ſoon as ever the price ſhall have riſen to a certain degree; and by this management they will prevent both the too high, and too low price of this commodity, both of which are inconveniences, in their conſequences hurtful enough to deſerve the care of a *Sovereign* to prevent, who hath nothing more at heart than to procure, as much as can depend on his care and foreſight, the happineſs of the people which *Providence* hath ſubmitted to his government.

§. 6. As to Wine. The State of *Berne* having a great quantity of Wine, as tithes and quit-rents, in the ſeveral vineyards in the Canton, had formerly a great deal in ſtore, both at *Berne* and elſewhere, of which they made uſe, in ſhort years, both to pay the ſalaries in Wine, which are annexed to a number of employments, and to ſupply the poor citizens therewith at a moderate

price, obſerving the ſame precaution as when they ſell Corn at a low price; but the ſalaries in Wine have by little and little encreaſed to ſuch a degree, that at this day there is ſo little left to be laid up, that after two ſucceeding ſhort years, the State finds itſelf under a neceſſity of paying a great part of the ſalaries in Money, which were appointed to be paid in Wine, in order to keep it in their power to ſupply the tradeſmen and other poor citizens of *Berne* therewith at a low rate.

I hope, Sir, that I have been ſo ſucceſsful as to ſatisfy your curioſity and have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your humble ſervant.

§. 7. The foregoing curious letter was received ſome years ſince by a gentleman of rank, whoſe ſuperior abilities are continually employed in ſearching out and communicating to the Public, ſuch things as may be uſeful to mankind; particularly ſuch as tend to the improvement and increaſe of Agriculture, and to make Corn cheap; and to him we are indebted for many of the moſt material facts and papers contained in this Collection.

§. 8. Notwithſtanding the great care of the Magiſtrates of *Berne*, it appears by this letter, that the people in that *Canton* ſuffer oftener by the dearneſs of Bread than in *England*, which proves that our *Corn-laws* are better than thoſe eſtabliſhed there, and that *Magazines* do not anſwer the end of keeping *Corn* at a moderate price ſo well as an *Exportation* under proper regulations, which moſt men think they will, and ſeem juſtified in ſo thinking

thinking, ſince they have been generally erected by moſt politicians.

§. 9. In relation to this ſubject, we have the following ſenſible converſation in a paper called the *Humaniſt*, numb. 3. dated *April* 9, 1757. Signior *Guaſtaldi*, when miniſter here from the Republic of *Genoa*, being aſked, " Whether in his country *public* granaries had not " been found of ſervice? replied, At *Genoa* there " was no doing without them, and that the *State* " had always *ſeven years* PROVISION *before hand**; " but, ſaid he, in your *Iſle* it is quite different, for " you annually grow more than you eat; and if I " am not miſinformed, it is hardly one year in twen- " ty, that the produce of the earth is not fully ſuf- " ficient for the inhabitants of it. Therefore, your " buſineſs rather ſhould be, to get a market for your " *ſuperfluity* abroad. Yet, I have been told, ſo negli- " gent is the *police* here, that at certain times, the " *public* have given a Bounty to tranſport the Corn " from the mouths of your own people, who at " thoſe very times ſtood in great need of it."

§. 10. Thus far Signior *Guaſtaldi*, the Author goes on, " I am ſorry to ſay the remark " of this learned foreigner had too much " foundation in truth; yet, I think, the injury he " complains

* Only one year's PROVISION in *England* would coſt very near as much as the amount of the land tax at 4s. all expences and waſte included, to keep it in good order. But our Corn is of a ſofter nature and more apt to decay than that of *Genoa*, and it may be ſuppoſed, the *City* only, and not the *State* is here meant.

" complains of may be eaſily redreſſed, by diſal-
" lowing the Bounty when the Corn exceeds the
" *mean* rate, and when beyond ſuch a certain rate,
" by a total prohibition of Exportation*. And then ſays, " Satisfied I am, that the common
" method of ſtacking Corn in the midlands of *Eng-*
" *land*, which preſerves it good many years, will
" *fully* anſwer the end of *public* granaries.

§. 11. Tranſlation of abſtracts from *Ami des hommes*, vol. 3. printed at *Amſterdam* 1758, the ſuppoſed Author Monſieur *Mirabeau*.

After ſhewing, page 60, the inconveniences which the regulations and reſtrictions relative to the Corn-trade have had in *France*, he propoſes the leaving it intirely free ‡ for the future; which, page 61, he ſays, Mr. *Colbert* did, except as to great Cities, particularly thoſe near the ſea, which he took care ſhould be provided with foreign Corn. But that care appears to him ſuperfluous and dangerous. *Superfluous* for that the induſtry of the Merchant will always prevent the neceſſity of ſuch proviſions, and by that means the charges and loſs of the *Magazines* will fall on ſtrangers, or private perſons, who will be

* See Conſiderations, ſec. 4.

‡ The bad effects of the contrary conduct are ſeen, or rather felt, in the *Roman* eccleſiaſtical ſtate, where there is now, or very lately was, a famine, and the Huſbandman is ſo far from being *free*, that an agent of the Pope's granaries fixes the prices of his Corn at ſo much a buſhel, which price he cannot diſpute, nor has he liberty to ſell to any other than the ſaid agent, and therefore only raiſes for the ſupport of his own family, ſee *Eſſays on Huſbandry*, *Lond.* 1764, p. 117.

be very ready to ſupport them, and not on the *public*, whoſe affairs are never better managed than when they have nothing to do*. *Dangerous*, in that it is beginning an inſpection into matters where every inſpection opens a door to greater inconveniences, page 63. It hath been propoſed, in ſome provinces, to erect *Magazines* of the King's Corn, either for the ſervice of the troops, or for the convenience and neceſſity of the country. But what would be the conſequence? when it was neceſſary to fill thoſe granaries, the name of authority would ſtop the Corn every where, and thoſe employed would have it at what price they pleaſed.

When it ſhould become neceſſary to empty the Magazines leſt the Corn ſhould periſh, the ſame ſacred name would ſtop all other ſales, and ſerve as a veil to a certain and unlawful gain.

"I have ſeen ſuch men ſtarve a country, and, "what is more, wreſt from it both honour and "wealth."

He goes on to page 74, in removing all objections which occur to him againſt making the Corn-trade free; and there, as the ſum total of what he hath ſaid, propoſes an EDICT ſomething like that which was paſſed at *Paris* in 1764, of which a copy is given in the following chapter.

§. 12. In regard to Magazines, the ingenious Author of the *Eſſays* on Huſbandry, ‡ ſays, page 116, "I think public gra- "naries quite *detrimental*, rather than *uſeful*, in a free

* "Du public dont les affaires ne ſont jamais mieux "adminiſtrées, que quand il n'en a point."

‡ Printed at *London*, 1764, and ſold by *Brotherton*, &c.

" a free ſtate like ours. *National* and even *pro-*
" *vincial* Magazines of Corn will naturally produce
" *Monopoly*; and an undue fear of famine joined
" with much anxiety about hoarding up Grain,
" which will put a ſtop to Exportation, is one of
" the ſureſt methods, I know, of bringing on a
" dearth." He goes on and confirms what he ſays with very ſtrong and concluſive reaſons.

CHAPTER II.

Accounts from FRENCH AUTHORS.

SECTION I.

AN account what ſome late *French* Authors ſay of our Corn-laws, and of ſome late Edicts publiſhed there in regard to the Corn-trade.

The Author of *L'Ami des hommes*, vol. iii. p. 53. ſays, " The *Engliſh*, to encourage the culture of
" Corn in their Iſland, have made uſe of a ſingular
" method, which hath *ſucceeded*, which is to gratify
" at the expence of the *State* the Exporters of that
" Merchandiſe.

" They have methodiſed and regulated that im-
" portant object of the police, in proportion to the
" Market prices with them of that valuable Mer-
" chandiſe.

" This method may have been good for a time,
" and may become hurtful in other circumſtances;

" for

" for there is no political regulation that in all mi-
" nute cafes can remain fixed here below."

§. 2. Abſtracts from a work, called, *Les Interêts de la France mal entendus dans les branches de l'Agriculture*, &c. 2 vol. 12mo. at *Amſterdam*, 1757, ſuppoſed to be wrote by Mr. *Boulainvilliers*.

Vol. i. page 93 to 111, an account is given at length of the method of Tillage purſued in the County of *Norfolk*, and the benefits which have accrued therefrom, which it is ſaid the *Bounty* eſtabliſhed in 1689 gave riſe to, and that the produce of the land hath in general been augmented thereby; the Author goes on.

" In other *States* private perſons pay the govern-
" ment for the Exportation of Grain; *England* acts
" quite otherwiſe and pays them.

" All common means made uſe of to that time
" to increaſe the fruits of the earth had been inſuf-
" ficient, or, at leaſt, of little uſe.

" Before that Epocha, the Agriculture of *England*
" was of little account in *Europe*.

§. 3. " As long as that *Monarchy* thought
" only of its *own* ſubſiſtence, it always
" found itſelf ſhort of the *neceſſary*; it
" was very often obliged to have recourſe to foreign-
" ers to make up the deficiency of the growth of the
" Nation: but when it made its Agriculture an ob-
" ject of *Commerce*, the cultivation of its land be-
" came one of the moſt abundant in *Europe*.

" Without that ſtroke of ſtate, the beſt concert-
" ed of all thoſe which have yet appeared in modern
" politics, *England* had never ſown but for herſelf,

" for what would ſhe have done with the *ſurplus* of " her Grain?

" It was the Bounty *only* which could aſſure her " of the ſale in foreign Markets; and, for that rea- " ſon, be the *only* ſource of the augmentation of " her harveſts".

§. 4. He then proceeds to anſwer objections, ſhews the benefits which have ariſen from the Bounty, and ſays,

" Let us combine all the means which that Mo- " narchy hath put in uſe, for an age paſt, to eſta- " bliſh its power; and, we ſhall find, that it is to " this in particular, which ſhe is indebted for her " elevation." He then proceeds to page 113, to ſhew the neceſſity of giving a Bounty on the Export of Corn in *France*, after our example.

§. 5. Vol. ii. fol. 123. ſpeaking of the Act of Navigation, he ſays, " It fixed for " ever in favour of this Nation the " ballance of power at ſea." The Author of *l' Ami des hommes* quoted above, ſpeaking of the ſame Act, confeſſeth the great conſequence it hath been of to us, by the uneaſineſs it gives him. In vol. iii. page 259, he ſaith, " It would be eaſy to prove to " them, the *Engliſh*, that their famous Act of Na- " vigation was a folly, even at the time in which " it was propoſed; although the incidents, which, " at that time, turned the views of foreign powers " another way, have cauſed it to ſucceed;" which he explains, and adds, " If thoſe powers, which " were equally affected by that injury done to all " Mankind, had taken combined meaſures againſt " that

" that attempt on public liberty; the *Engliſh* would " have ſhamefully retreated; inſtead of which each " power looked on it as not regarding himſelf, and " content to obtain the permiſſion to carry to the " *Queen of Nations* the Merchandiſe of its own " growth, ſaw no harm in that Act; except the " *Dutch*, who are great carriers, but grow little or " nothing." He goes on to give it ſome more abuſe, and ſays, " Now, when every Nation " turns its view to commerce, it could not be " paſſed.

§. 6. It muſt be confeſſed the laſt quotations are not directly to the preſent purpoſe; but if that Act hath been of ſuch benefit in general, no Trade in particular, hath contributed more to promote the ends thereof than that of Corn, by the great number of men neceſſarily engaged in the navigation of ſhips and veſſels employed for the carriage thereof, both coaſtways and to foreign parts, which will, it is hoped, be a ſufficient excuſe for our ſo doing, and help to ſhew, how careful we ought to be in diſpenſing with, or altering, not only that Act, but alſo our Laws relative to the Export of Corn.

§. 7. Since the publiſhing the works, from which the above quotations and abſtracts are taken, all poſſible encouragement hath been given to Agriculture in *France*; many other valuable pieces have been publiſhed, relative more immediately to that, and to the Corn-trade; and ſeveral Declarations and Edicts have been publiſhed for the regulation of the ſaid Trade, both

within the Kingdom and in reſpect to Exportation and Importation to and from foreign parts, all which are drawn up in a manner ſo conformable to the ſentiments of the above Authors, as to give reaſon to believe they were adviſed with, or at leaſt, the plans they have ſketched out were followed, as far as the nature of the thing would bear.

§. 8. It would be tireſome, and is unneceſſary to give tranſlations of all thoſe papers, we ſhall, however, give the titles of ſuch as could be obtained, and attempt a tranſlation of the EDICT concerning the Export and Import, which more immediately concerns us.

Titles of EDICTS publiſhed in *France* relative to the Corn-trade.

Firſt, " A declaration of the King, giving permiſſion to circulate Corn, Flour, and Pulſe " through the whole extent of the Kingdom, free " from all duties, even thoſe of Toll.

Given at *Verſailles* the 25 *May*, 1763.

Second, " Order of the King's Council of State, " explaining an order of 27 *March*, 1763, and ſettling a Duty on all Flour imported."

Dated 18 *September*, 1763."

Third, " Order of the King's Council of State, " which directs that the liberty given to export " Flour in Caſks ſhall extend to every ſort of " Flour."

" Dated 21 *November*, 1763."

The

The next is that which relates to the Exportation, and is as follows.

Tranſlation of the *French* King's EDICT relative to the Exportation of Corn, *&c.*

EDICT of the KING.

Concerning the LIBERTY *of the* EXPORTATION *from, and* IMPORTATION *of Grain into the Kingdom.*

Given at Compeigne, *in the month of* July, 1764.

REGISTRED IN PARLIAMENT.

LOUIS, by the grace of GOD, King of *France*, and *Navarre*, to all preſent and to come, Greeting;

The attention which we owe to every thing that may contribute to the welfare of our Subjects, hath induced us to give a favourable hearing to the petitions which have been addreſſed to us from all parts, to eſtabliſh an entire Liberty in the Corn-trade, and to revoke ſuch Laws and Regulations as have been heretofore made to reſtrain it within too ſtrict bounds. After having taken the opinion of perſons the beſt acquainted in the affair, and having carefully deliberated in our Council. We thought it neceſſary to comply with the ſolicitations which have been made to us for the free Exportation and Importation of Corn and Meal, as proper to encourage and increaſe the cultivation of Land, the produce of which is the ſource of the moſt real and certain riches of a ſtate, to maintain plenty by Magazines and the Importation of foreign Corn, to prevent Corn from being at a price which diſcourages the Grower,

to

to baniſh Monopoly by an irrevocable excluſion of all particular permiſſions, and in the end, by a free and entire concurrence *or competition* in the Trade, to keep up between different Nations, that communication of exchanging ſuperfluities for neceſſaries, ſo conformable to the order eſtabliſhed by divine providence, and to the views of humanity which ought to animate all Sovereigns. We are convinced, that it is worthy of our continual care, for the happineſs of our people, and of our juſtice towards the proprietors of Lands and the Farmers, to grant them a liberty which they ſo earneſtly deſire: and we have, moreover, thought it neceſſary to ſecure, by a ſolemn and perpetual Law, the Merchants and Traders from all fear of the return of prohibitive Laws; but to remove the fears of thoſe who are not as yet fully convinced of the advantage which the liberty of ſuch a commerce muſt produce. It ſeemed to us neceſſary to fix a price of Corn, above which, all Exportation out of the Kingdom ſhould be prohibited, when Wheat ſhall have riſen to that price. And as we ought not to neglect any occaſion to excite induſtry, we have reſolved to encourage at the ſame time the *French* navigation, by ſecuring to *French* veſſels and ſeamen, excluſively of all others, the carriage of Corn to be exported. FOR THESE CAUSES, and others moving us hereto, with the advice of our Council, and of our certain knowledge, full power and royal authority, we have by this preſent, perpetual, and irrevocable Edict, ordered, decreed, and ordained, ordering, decreeing, and ordaining, willing, and it is our pleaſure, as follows:

Our

I.

Our Declaration of the 25 *May*, 1763, concerning the free tranſportation of Corn within our Kingdom with permiſſion to eſtabliſh Magazines, together with the Letters patents, explaining the ſame of the 5 *March* laſt, ſhall be executed according to their form and tenor; conſequently, it is our pleaſure, that the ſaid interior circulation, *ſhall not be in any wiſe obſtructed.*

II.

Alſo, we permit all our Subjects of whatever quality and condition they may be, even the Nobility and priviledged perſons, to trade in every ſpecies of Corn, Seeds, Grain, Pulſe, and Meal, whether it be with natives or foreigners, and to form, for that end, ſuch Magazines as they ſhall think proper, without being liable to be ſearched, diſturbed or bound by any formalities other than thoſe mentioned by this preſent Edict, nor ſhall the ſaid Nobility and priviledged perſons be ſubject to any impoſitions by reaſon of ſuch Trade *only.*

III.

It is our pleaſure, to that end, that the Exportation, to foreigners, of all Corn, Seeds, Grain, Pulſe, and Meal, ſhall be entirely free, both by land and by ſea, with the exceptions and limitations only laid down by the following articles. We ſtrictly prohibit and forbid all our officers and thoſe of *Lords* to oppoſe or hinder ſuch Importation in any wiſe, in any caſe, or under any pretence whatſoever.

The

IV.

The Export of Wheat, Rye, Maſlin, and Meal ſhall not be permitted, when by ſea, as to the preſent, untill it ſhall be, by us, otherwiſe ordered, except from the ports of *Calais*, *St. Valory*, *Dunkirk*, *Fécamp*, *Dieppe*, *le Havre*, *Rouen*, *Honfleur*, *Cherbourg*, *Caen*, *Granville*, *Morlaiſe*, *St. Malo*, *Breſt*, *Port Louis*, *Nantes*, *Vannes*, *la Rochelle*, *Bourdeaux*, *Blaye*, *Libourne*, *Bayonne*, *Cette*, *Vendres*, *Marſeilles*, and *Toulon*, and the Exportation may not be carried on but on *Freach* veſſels, of which, the Captain and *two thirds* of the mariners at leaſt ſhall be *French*, under pain of confiſcation.

V.

Being deſirous to provide, by the introduction of foreign Corn into our Kingdom, ſo that Corn may not riſe to a price burthenſome to our people, we permit all our ſubjects and all foreigners to bring freely into our Kingdom, on all kinds of Veſſels without diſtinction, all Corn, Seeds, Grain, Meal, and Pulſe, coming from abroad, paying the duties impoſed by this preſent Edict.

VI.

In caſe, nevertheleſs, when, contrary to our expectation, and notwithſtanding the reaſonable hopes which the free Importation of ſuch foreign Grain gives; the price of Wheat ſhall be riſen to twelve livres ten ſous the quintal * and upwards, in any one of the ports or places ſituated on

* About 48s. the quarter, *London* meaſure.

on the frontier of our Kingdom, and that the ſaid price ſhall be kept up in the ſame place, for three following market days: It is our pleaſure that the liberty granted by the foregoing Articles ſhall remain ſuſpended in ſuch place, abſolutely, and without there being need of any new regulation. We therefore prohibit, and moſt expreſly forbid, in the ſaid caſe, all our ſubjects to *export**, *or* cauſe any Grain to be exported, from the ſaid place, untill that, upon the repreſentations of the officers of the ſaid place, which are to be addreſſed to the Controller General of our Finances, the opening of the ſaid place hath been ordered in our Council, to the end, to re-eſtabliſh there, a general and indefinite liberty for the Import and Export of Grain, without which, no particular permiſſions in this reſpect ſhall or may be given in any caſe by our Governors, Commandants, Commiſſaries in their departments, or other our officers.

VII.

Wheat ſhall be ſubject, on the Importation into the Kingdom, to a duty of one per cent. and Rye, other Corn, Seeds, Grain, Flour, and Pulſe, to a duty of three per cent. It is our pleaſure, nevertheleſs, that the ſaid Grains ſhall not pay, on the Exportation from our Kingdom, only a duty of one half per cent. for which purpoſe, thoſe who would import or export theſe commodities ſhall be obliged, under ſuch penalties as ſhall be fixed, to make at the Cuſtom-houſes, eſtabliſhed on the frontiers of our Kingdom, for the receipts of our dues,

 declarations,

* *Export or* is not in the original.

declarations, conformable to the regulations of the quantity and quality of the ſaid commodities.

VIII.

We permit all foreigners or natives to import all kinds of Grain into our Kingdom, and there to lay them up, that is to ſay, Wheat for a year, and other Corns, Seeds, Grain, Meal or Flour, and Pulſe for ſix months only; during which times, they may export them freely to foreigners, either whole or in Meal, on all ſorts of veſſels without diſtinction, without paying any duty; and they ſhall not be liable to pay the duties impoſed by the preceeding article, only in the caſe where the ſaid commodities are brought in for the conſumption of the inhabitants of our Kingdom, or after the expiration of the time allowed for laying them up.

IX.

We repeal all Edicts, Declarations, and Regulations contrary hereto, nevertheleſs, without making any innovation, as to the preſent, in the rules of the police hitherto obſerved, for victualling our good City of *Paris*, which ſhall continue to be obſerved, as heretofore, untill it hath by us been otherwiſe ordered. Moreover, we command our well beloved and truſty *Counſellors**, holding our Court of the Parliament of *Paris*, that they cauſe our preſent Edict to be read, publiſhed, and regiſtred, and the contents hereof to keep, obſerve, and execute according to its form and tenor, every thing to the contrary notwithſtanding. We will that to copies of this preſent

* *Conſeillers les Gens.*

preſent Edict, collated by one of our well beloved and faithful Counſellors-ſecretaries, credit be given as to the original, FOR SUCH IS OUR PLEASURE: And to the end, that this be a matter firm and ſtable for ever, we have cauſed our ſeal to be fixed hereto. GIVEN at *Compeigne*, in the month of *July*, in the year of grace 1764, and of our reign the forty-ninth.

Signed LOUIS, and lower down par le Roi, *ſigned* PHELIPEAUX, *examined* LOUIS, examined in council, *De l'Averdy*, and ſealed with the great ſeal of green wax, in ſtrings of red and green ſilk.

Regiſtred, &c. in due form *at Paris*, *in Parliament*, *all the Chambers aſſembled*, 19 *July*, 1764.

Signed *Dufranc.*

Since the foregoing Edict, Letters patents of the King which fix the duties on the Export and Import of Grain, and permit the circulation and Export of every kind of Grain paying the duties therein mentioned, were publiſhed at *Fontainebleau*, *Nov.* 7, 1764.

Theſe are explanatory and in amendment of the Edict of *July*, 1764, and extend it to *Linſeed*, *Rape-ſeed*, *Turnip-ſeed*, *Cole-ſeed*, *and others the like**, fit to make oil.

If any thing hath been done ſince the laſt it hath not come to hand.

* Lin, Rabette, Navette, Colfat et autres ſemblables.

§. 10. During the year 1764, the propriety of the foregoing Laws have been fully, freely, calmly, and farely debated in print, in ſeveral pamphlets, *&c.* in *France*, ſome of which we have been favoured with, and ſubjoin the original titles, that thoſe who think proper may procure them, and they will find in them a clear account of the nature of our Corn-laws with very little miſtake, the chief or moſt material is in relation to opening the ports, they know it is done by the price in the Markets advancing to a certain value; but are not acquainted that it is aſcertained at, and certified from, the Quarter-ſeſſions, and that when once the port is open, it is to remain ſo for a fixed time; but imagine, that if the Markets ſhould fall ever ſo ſoon, or even after a *ſhip* is in the port, the *high* duties muſt be paid. Their Merchants muſt be better informed, at leaſt thoſe of any conſequence, and yet it is very poſſible a miſtake of this kind may at ſometimes have prevented ſome Imports.

Titles of *French* pamphlets.

§. 11. Numb. 1. Contains upwards of 150 pages, octavo.

" De l'Exportation & de l'Importa-
" tion des Grains. *Memoire* lû à la Société Royale
" d'Agriculture de Soiſſons, par M. *Dupont*, l'un
" des Aſſociés, 1764.

" Lettre contre la liberté de l'Exportation.

" Reponſe à la lettre contre la liberté, *&c.*

" Reflexions pour ſervir de ſeconde reponſe.

Numb.

Numb. 2. " Reflexions ſur la police des Grains " en FRANCE et en ANGLETERRE, *Mars.* 1764."

§. 12. From the firſt of theſe we ſhall give only one extract; at page 146, the Author having before recited many objections to the ſcheme there propoſed, adds, " when it was under " conſideration in *England* to reſtore Agriculture " from its periſhing ſtate by a grand operation, the " ſame reaſonings ſtood in the way there, and were " then made uſe of, and even ſtronger, for *at that time* " *we ſupported* Spain *entirely, and we ſupported* Eng- " land *more frequently than ſhe comes at this day to our* " *aſſiſtance**; we had, notwithſtanding all this, at " that time, ſtill more lands capable of cultivation, " ſo that the boldneſs of our neighbours was ſo " much the greater. Let us compare the preſent " ſtate of our cultivation and of theirs, *and we ſhall* " *find the ſolution.*"

The words for the Italics are *voila la ſolution*; and the Author explains himſelf no further, but leaves us to gueſs at his meaning; which ſeems to be preciſely this, if *England* dared to attempt a revival of her

* This is confirmed by *Howel*, ſee note, page 68, to be the caſe in 1621, and in *Sam. Hartlib*'s legacy of Husbandry, 3 *Ed. Lond.* 1655, page 93, are the following ſtrong expreſſions, " Although the Husbandman " hath been laborious and diligent in his calling *theſe laſt* " *years*, yet our Crops have been thin; his cattle ſwept " away, and *ſcarcity* and *famine* hath ſeized on *all* parts " of this Land; and if we had not been ſupplied from " *abroad*, we had quite devoured all the creatures of " this Iſland for our ſuſtenance, and yet we could not " be ſatisfied, but muſt have devoured one another." This appears to have been wrote in *Aug.* 1651.

her Agriculture when ours was in ſuch a flouriſhing ſtate, and ſo much exceeded theirs, that we ſupported *Spain* entirely, aſſiſted them oftener than they now do us, and ſtill had more lands capable of cultivation; and notwithſtanding all this, ſucceeded in the attempt. Surely *France*, whoſe preſent ſtate of Agriculture will not be found on the compariſon, ſo deplorable as that of the *Engliſh* then was, need not fear to ſucceed in attempting its reſtoration.

Our extracts from the Reflections on the police of Corn in *France* and *England* will be ſomewhat longer.

§. 13. Page 9, " *England* heretofore languiſhed in the bonds of an abſolute prohibition *, it felt the ſame effects as we " feel at this day, a diſregard of Tillage, a reduction of the price of labour, and poverty was the " lot of *all* who had no other patrimony beſides " health and the labour of their hands. A writing " publiſhed in 1621, by Sir *Thomas Culpeper*, informs us, that, at that time, the *French* with their " Corn, and the *Dutch* with that of *Poland*, ſupplied the *Engliſh* Markets, and that the national " Corn was continually below its true value, *at preſent*, ſays Culpeper, *whilſt Corn and the other Merchandiſes which the earth produces are at a low price, the ſpade and the plow are forſaken. The poor find little imployment and wages are extremely low. If the proprietors of Lands could find their account in mending them, there would ſoon be many more people employed* " *in*

* It was ſo in effect, though not in fact, ſee liſt of ſtatutes, page 44.

" *in their cultivation than there now are; and wages* " *would be better. Every man bleſt with health and* " *ſtrength would not be poor except through extreme lazi-* " *neſs.**"

§. 14. " The aſcendant which prejudice had " on the multitude, and the weak and ſlow " impreſſion, which more ſolid and clear " principles made on prepoſſeſſion, did not permit " the *Engliſh* to diſtinguiſh readily the cauſes of " their poverty, and it was not till 1660 that our ſuc- " ceſs and their loſſes ‡ opened their Eyes, *&c.*"

He goes on to page 13, in giving an account of the progreſs of the alterations made in the *Engliſh* Corn-laws, and there ſays, " This is an account of " the origine, progreſs, and preſent ſtate of the *Engliſh* " policy in relation to the Corn-trade. It was eſ- " tabliſhed in paſſing through all the degrees of ex- " perience neceſſary to form, with a knowledge of " the principles, a permanent plan."

Nevertheleſs, he ſays page 17, " Our policy is " ſtill imperfect and hath plain inconveniences " which cannot be removed, as long as the Bounty " ſubſiſts."

And page 24, " by reaſon of prohibiting the " Importation, by exceſſive duties, *England* hath " been under a neceſſity to ſuſpend ſometimes that " free commerce therein to which the *Engliſh* are " indebted for the ſuperiority of their Tillage, " and

* Not being able to meet with *Culpeper*'s book, the above is tranſlated back from the *French*.

‡ What loſſes he refers to doth not appear, the Export-price was carried up to 40s. in 1660.

" and conſequently, *for the value of landed eſtates with* " *them.* †"

§. 15. It may plainly be collected from this pamphlet, which ſeems to be the work of, or at leaſt wrote under the direction of the Author of *L' Ami des hommes*, that the writer foreſees, if by the continuation of the Bounty we go on to encourage the Export, and by the high duties prevent the free Importation of Corn, the ſucceſs of the late alterations in their Corn-laws, as far as they regard Exportation, will be more materially obſtructed thereby, than by any oppoſition which can be made to them at home; and there can be no foundation of hope to ſee the time return, when the Corn of *France* ſhall AGAIN ſupply the *Engliſh* Markets, and ſpoil the ſales of that grown at home.

§. 16. Page 35, *&c.* it is proved that the ſcarcity in *France* in 1740, was only imaginary, and aroſe ſolely from the reſtrictions on the Corn-trade, the circulating thereof being then unlawful, which prevented the Merchants from ſpeculating in Corn; and by that means the whole ſtock was in the hands of the Farmer, who on its growing dearer, left off ſelling and withheld it in hopes of a ſtill higher price, " An evil which, " as he ſays, is inevitable in all places, where thoſe " who are poſſeſſed of the Corn have nothing to " fear from the competition of Merchants from abroad,

† The expreſſion is *les forces du fonds national.*

" broad, [or others.]—Mr. *Orry*, he ſays, imported " the value of Thirteen Millions *, but there was " none of it ſold, and that Corn periſhed, becauſe " on the arrival of that ſuccour, how moderate ſo- " ever it was for a great Kingdom †, where they " talked of want, the fear of loſs determined all to " open their Granaries."

§. 17. Have we not, more than once, found the like effects from a ſmall Importation? Hath not every Importation, even at its beginning, ſuch an effect as to prevent Corn growing dearer? And, do not theſe obſervations ſhew the neceſſity of fixing a price at which Corn ſhould be permitted to be imported duty free? Why ſhould not Wheat, for inſtance, be imported duty free, when the price thereof is returned to and certified from the Quarter-ſeſſions to be fifty ſhillings, and other Grain in proportion?

We muſt, however, take care not to fix the price too low, leſt we encourage foreign Agriculture to the detriment of our own.

* Between 250,000 and 300,000 *Engliſh* quarters.

† Which is ſuppoſed to conſume more than FIFTEEN MILLIONS of *London* quarters annually in Bread.

CHAPTER III.

Of the Number of the PEOPLE.

SECTION I.

EXTRACT from a pamphlet in 12mo, published at *London*, by *Carew Reynel*, Esq. 1674, intituled, The true *Englisſh* Intereſt, page 59, of Marriage and Populacy. "Our people were conſumed mightily in theſe late years, ſome three hundred thouſand were killed in the late *Civil Wars*; and about two hundred thouſand more have been waſted in re-peopling *Ireland*, and two hundred thouſand loſt in the great *ſickneſs*, and as many more gone to the *Plantations*."

All theſe together make 900,000, and perhaps the numbers are not greatly exaggerated. *Rapin*, vol. ii. fol. 224, ſays, 40,000 were loſt in the civil wars; but that he hath not given the whole number: the account of re-peopling *Ireland* ſeems probable, for, according to *Rapin*, vol. 2. fol. 386, upwards of 300,000 were maſſacred there in 1643, beſides what were afterwards killed in war. Near ſeventy thouſand died of the ſickneſs in the Bills only, and the numbers that for many years continually withdrew to the plantations were very great. And ſuppoſing theſe accounts to be true, more than *one eighth* of the people were loſt by thoſe means; not that it can be ſuppoſed the number was leſſened by *one eighth*, theſe loſſes were many years coming about

bout, and were at the same time continually making good.

We have since 1674, had four wars, in which many lives were lost; but we have had no very considerable emigrations of our people, and by the revocation of the *Edict* of *Nants* in 1685 and other means have gained a very considerable number.

§. 2. There have been since 1685 four several accounts taken of the number of houses in *England* and *Wales*.

The first from the Hearth tax, published in $169\frac{1}{2}$, by *John Houghton*, F. R. S. and reprinted in 1727, by *Richard Bradley*, F. R. S. in a collection of papers, called *Husbandry and Trade improved*, which makes the number 1,175,951, there are reasons to think this was the work of Dr. *Halley*, and this account is copied in the present state of *England*.

The second, which is published in the Philosophical transactions, vol. xlix. fol. 268. by Dr. *Brackenridge*, who says, the Houses, about the year 1710, he finds from a public office, which had caused an account to be taken of them in order to lay a tax, were 729,048, and the cottages which were omitted, he supposes one fourth more, in all 911,310.

The third, not published, was in the year 1755, but contained only the total number of Houses in *England* and *Wales* charged with the duty, which was 692,389.

The fourth, which also was not published, was in the year 1758, and contains an account of the total number of Houses in *England* and *Wales*, charged and not charged, inhabited and uninhabited, the whole number

of which is 986,482, of which there were Cottages 282,429, and there were uninhabited 24,904.

This laſt muſt be ſuppoſed the moſt exact account ever taken, and by its agreement with 1710 and 1758, we may conclude that the number hath in general continued much the ſame; as to that publiſhed in 1692 it appears to have been only a calculation made from the produce of the Hearth-tax; and the number of Houſes ſet down, by ſuppoſing a certain number of Hearths, about *three* to each Houſe for the whole tax is ſaid to have produced 256,000*l.* ‡ per annum, which at 2s. per Hearth, allowing three to each houſe, will make the whole number amount to 853,333, the remaining number of 322,618 being little more than one fourth of the whole, may be ſuppoſed to have been added for Houſes of and under 20s. a year, that were not chargeable.

And that this is not mere conjecture, appears in that the number of Houſes in the Counties of *York*, *Middleſex*, including *London*, *Kent*, *Eſſex*, *Surry*, and *Suſſex* in the account of 1758 is only 279,277, whereas in that of 1692 it is 336,103, that is more by 56,826 at that time than now *; and it will be difficult

‡ *Rapin*, vol. 2. fol. 630.

* Numbers of Houſes.

	1692	1758
Yorkſhire	106,151	96,212
Middleſex with *London*	100,136	——
Ditto and *Southwark*	——	89,736
Kent	39,242	35,483
Eſſex	34,819	26,769
Surry	34,218	14,721
Suſſex	21,537	16,356
Totals	336,103	279,277
Deduct	279,277	
Difference	56,826	

cult to prove that the number of Houſes is leſſened in thoſe Counties ſince 1692.

This difference muſt therefore ariſe from the rate of Hearths, whatever it was, being too low, and conſequently, calculating from the amount of the tax in each place made the number of Houſes too great.

By the account of 1758, 704,053 Houſes were charged; by the account of 1755 only 692,389; now between thoſe two years the Act of 31 G. 2. c. 22. paſſed which charged a greater number than the former Acts, ſo that theſe accounts agree very well with each other, and with that of 1710, which ſuppoſeth 729,048 the number proper to be taxed at that time; and it cannot be ſuppoſed but thoſe ſent to number them raiſed the account as high as poſſible; upon the whole, there ſeems reaſon to think, that for this Century paſt, the number of Houſes hath been near one million, and fix to each dwelling is not over-rating the people; which agrees with Dr. *Brackenridge*; as may be ſeen Philoſophical tranſactions, vol. xlix. page 279, and he calculates the annual increaſe at 18,000, which, he ſays, is *ſmall* but without the increaſe of foreigners *would be very inconſiderable if any thing at all.*

CHAPTER

CHAPTER IV.

Of the sorts of BREAD, and what number of the PEOPLE eat of each.

IT is certain that Bread made of Wheat is become much more generally the food of the common people ſince 1689 than it was before that time, but it is ſtill very far from being the food of the people in general; and ſome, who have conſidered this matter with great attention, and are better informed in regard thereto than moſt enquirers generally be, were inclined to think that in the year 1764, one half of the people could not be ſuppoſed to feed on ſuch Bread.

In order therefore to get at all poſſible certainty in this matter no pains have been ſpared, and from a conſideration of the ſeveral ſorts of Grain with which, the *London* Market is ſupplied from, and ſends to the diſtant parts of the Kingdom, after many enquiries made of, and converſations held with, many who travel into, and have lived, or live in ſeveral of the diſtant Counties; particularly the labouring people, who are beſt acquainted with the Bread they eat, and calculating the number of mouths from the number of Houſes, there is reaſon to think that more than half the people do live on ſuch Bread.

This work would be too tedious to inſert, but an abſtract follows; in which, though there may be ſome

ſome ſmall difference as to the number of Houſes as a full copy was not permitted, but only the total number and ſome extracts *, yet the whole number agrees with the account of 1758, and, if any thing, the number who eat Wheat is ſet rather too low.

The Kingdom, with *Wales*, is divided into ſix parts taking thoſe Counties which lie moſt contiguous as may be ſeen in the Map.

Part the firſt contains,

1 *London* with *Middleſex* and *Southwark*,
2 *Eſſex*,
3 *Kent*,
4 *Surry*,
5 *Suſſex*,
6 *Hants*,
7 *Berkſhire*,
8 *Buckingham*,
9 *Hertford*,
10 *Bedford*,
11 *Cambridge*,
12 *Huntingdon*,
13 *Suffolk*,
14 *Norfolk*.

Part the ſecond contains,

15 *Wilts*,
16 *Somerſet*,
17 *Dorſet*,
18 *Devon*,
19 *Cornwall*.

Part the third contains,

20 *Monmouth*,
21 *Glouceſter*,
22 *Oxford*,
23 *Hereford*,
24 *Worceſter*,
25 *Warwick*,
26 *Northampton*,
27 *Salop*,
28 *Stafford*,
29 *Leiceſter*,
30 *Rutland*,

Part

* Which See note, page 180.

Part the fourth contains,

31 *Cheſter*,
32 *Derby*,
33 *Nottingham*,
34 *Lincoln*,
35 *Lancaſter*.

Part the fifth contains,

36 *York*,
37 *Weſtmorland*,
38 *Durham*,
39 *Cumberland*,
40 *Northumberland*.

Part the ſixth contains,

Six Counties in South, and ſix Counties in North *Wales*.

The accounts of each part ſtand as follows,

Parts

Parts	Numb. of Houses.	Number of Souls fix to each.	What number in the whole eat.			
			Wheat	Barley	Rye	Oats
1	348,187	2,089,122	1,866,405	36,741	185,976	——
2	150,689	904,134	682,815	221,319	——	——
3	170,746	1,024,476	691,258	159,136	156,237	17,845
4	123,025	738,150	200,339	128,621	118,795	290,395
5	148,760	892,560	283,996	37,196	285,382	285,986
6	45,075	270,450	29,344	127,585	113,521	——
	986,482	5,918,892	3,754,157	710,598	859,911	594,226

Say the whole number is 6,000,000 and that of those who eat Wheat is 3,750,000
Barley — 739,000
Rye — 888,000
Oats — 623,000

Total 6,000,000

CHAPTER V.

OF THE QUANTITIES OF THE SEVERAL SORTS OF GRAIN CONSUMED ANNUALLY IN THE KINGDOM.

SECTION I.

THE quantity of Bread, which is daily or annually consumed by each individual, depends so much on his health, exercise, labour, constitution, and the quantity of his other sorts of food, that after all our enquiries we must be content with conjectures; but in order to found such conjectures on probability, here follow what material informations could be obtained, with some observations thereon, and averages of each are struck.

Maitland, in his Survey of *London*, §. 2. ed. 1756, fol. 756, says, "The Bakers, "after some deliberation, unanimously "agreed, that, including puddings and pies, and "other pastry ware, the quantity of Flour con- "sumed in this City and suburbs would daily a- "mount to *ten ounces* * per head." to supply which requires

* Wherever *English* weight is mentioned, that of *Avoirdupoise* is meant.

requires 5 b. 2 p. † of Wheat, *London* measure ‡ per annum.

§. 3. Dr. *Brackenridge*, in Philosophical transactions, vol. xlix. fol. 268, says, "Now it is known, and I have observed "in the country, that labouring people in health "on the average eat one quarter, which is 512 lb. "of Flour [annually] or 1 lb. 6 oz. per day, we "may allow that healthy and unhealthy do not "consume half that quantity one with the other, "and to make the consumption as *small* as can reasonably be imagined, *suppose* three people, children included, consume as one labourer; *i. e.* "one quarter yearly, or each person 7 oz. per day "*&c.*" If the Doctor really means *Flour*, a third part must be added thereto, to shew the Wheat; if he mistakes Meal for Flour, then it is the same as Wheat; but he makes his bushel 64 lb. whereas a bushel of Meal is only 56 lb. we will suppose he means Meal, 512 lb. of which is full 1 qr. 1 b. per annum, the one third of which is only 3 b.

† *Note*, The proportion of the Flour to the Wheat is as seven to nine of the fine sort, and as six to eight on a medium; which last proportion is followed throughout this Supplement, and the weight of the bushel of Wheat is called fifty seven pounds, which is as much as all the Wheat fine and coarse together, Statute-measure, would weigh; and here it may be proper to remark, that Statute, *London* and *Winchester* measure, are all the same.

‡ *Note*, All the following accounts and quotations are reduced to the same measure.

§. 4. Mr. *Hume*, in his Eſſay, *Edinb.* edit. 1752, page 235, *of antient Nations*, ſays, "The portion of Corn given every "month to every man of full years in *Rome* was 5 "modij or about $\frac{5}{6}$ of an *Engliſh* buſhel *; *i. e.* "1 qr. 2 b. per annum."

§. 5. Mr. *Wallace*, of the number of mankind, *Edinb.* edit. 1753, page 293, ſpeaking of the *Athenians*, ſays, "They "had of Grain alone, more than one *Scotch*, or "about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *Engliſh* peck a week to each of them; "no inconſiderable allowance, conſidering the "plenty of fruits and other proviſions with which "*Attica* abounded." In proof of which he hath the following note, *viz.* "Many of the labouring "people in *Scotland*, when they are on board "wages, have no more a week than two *Scotch* pecks "of Oatmeal for the whole maintenance. One "*Scotch* peck is to an *Engliſh* peck as 1,47 to one "nearly." The *Athenians* had 2 qrs. 3 b. 2 p. of Wheat, and the *Scotch* have 4 qrs. 7 b. of Oatmeal per annum. But query, if there is not ſome miſtake

* Which he ſays, "Was too little for a family, and "too much for an individual," But if by buſhel is meant that of *London*, it ſhould ſeem he is miſtaken, for according to what he ſays, the contents of the *modius* weighed about 9 lb. 8 oz, whereas, according to Dr. *Arbuthnot*, it weighed 14 lb. and above $\frac{9}{10}$, ſay 14 lb. 8 oz. the contents correſponding to one *London* peck, and 7,68 cub. inches, and we think Dr. *Arbuthnot*'s opinion preferable to Mr. *Hume*'s, as he made theſe ſorts of enquiries his particular ſtudy, and call this 1 qr. 7 b. 1 p. per annum.

take in the laſt? for it will require 9 qrs. 6b. of Oats to make 4qrs. 7b. of Meal.

§. 6. In *Lancaſhire*, a meaſure of Oats, equal to near half a *London* buſhel, makes 9lb. which is a peck meaſure of Oatmeal, and what a labouring man eats in a week; *i. e.* 3 qrs. 2b. * of Oats per annum.

§. 7. *Recherche de Monnoie*, printed at *Paris*, 1762, page 157, ſays, "a modius, or "*Roman* buſhel of Wheat was ſufficient "to ſupport a man a week; it is the preſent *Tuſ*"*can* buſhel, and contains 16 lb. marc weight ‡, "The *Egyptian* buſhel, which is at this day the *Paris* "buſhel‖, which the *Romans*, frequently uſed, weigh"ed *twenty French* pounds. Our *peaſants*, one with "another, with the animals which they ſupport, con"ſume in the ſame time of eight days, *twenty* pounds of

* *Note*, *Two* quarters of Oats will ſeldom make *one* quarter of Oatmeal.

‡ It is natural to ſuppoſe, the *Tuſcan* pound is here meant, but by the Author ſaying the *Italians* are a *little* more moderate, it ſhould rather be underſtood of that of *Paris*, for then they eat 1 qr. 7b. per annum; *i. e.* four fifths of what the *French* eat; although if it is taken in this ſenſe, it ſhould ſeem there was no need to apologize for the great ſtomachs of the *peaſants* in compariſon of the *Italians*, by introducing other animals, and ſaying Bread is almoſt *all* they eat. However, we prefer the alteration as moſt probable.

‖ Twelve *Paris* buſhels make one ſetier, and the quarter of *London* is one ſetier and $\frac{3}{4}\frac{5}{1}$; therefore, the ſetier is 4 b. 1 p. and $\frac{1}{3}$. See *Eſſai ſur les Monnoies*, fol. 68.

" of sixteen ounces: It is true Bread is almost *all* " they eat, and that the *Italians* are a *little* more " moderate." *Sixteen* pounds marc weight of *Tuscany* are, by *Pereira*'s tables, equal to about 8 lb. avoirdupoise; *i. e.* 7b. 1 p. per annum. *Note*, *twenty* pounds of *Paris* make 21 lb. 14 oz. 6dr. but we shall go by the measure, and 52 bushels of *Paris* make 4 $\frac{1}{3}$ *setiers*; *i. e.* 2 qrs. 3b. per annum.

§. 8. *Essai sur les monnoies*, printed at *Paris*, 1746, page 52, in the notes, says, " It " is not thought too high an estimation " of the consumption of men, one with the other, " to rate it at three setiers a year; if there are those " who eat less, there are a great many who consume " more." Now three setiers are full equal to 1 qr. 4 b. 3 p. *London* measure.

Page 57, " It is estimated that those who are " the greatest eaters of new and soft Bread, con- " sume four setiers a year (*i. e.* 2qrs. 1b. but that " a fourth part remains in Bran*. Workmen and " laborious people who eat only *brown* bread eat " more; it may be reckoned that those whose labour " is the least fatiguing eat two pounds and a quar- " ter, and those whose labour is the hardest, as por- " ters, *&c.* consume as far as three pounds a day. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. is 1qr. 4b. 3p. and 3lb. is 2qr. 1b. per ann.† " Each domestic of *Paris*, on the footing of 9 lb. " of Bread per week, without reckoning that eat in " soup, or that which they eat as way-bits, would " consume annually 468 lb. of white Bread, or " three

* This agrees with note 187, which see.

† *Note*. In this Bread the bran is included.

" three ſetiers of Wheat at leaſt: it will require " more for workmen who eat very little meat, and " who have not that which one gives to domeſticks " beſides their Bread."

Three ſetiers are equal to 1 qr. 4 b. 3 p. *London* meaſure.

But notwithſtanding what this Author hath ſaid as above, he hath in his notes, page 57, as follows, *viz.*

§. 9. " The priſoners, according to the e- " leventh article of the Arret of Par- " liament, publiſhed the 18th *June*, " 1717, ought to have each of them per day, a loaf " of a good quality and of the weight of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. at " leaſt; ſo that the ſetier of Wheat making 272 lb. " of *brown* bread, will laſt them 181$\frac{1}{3}$ Days, and " they will conſume two ſetiers of Wheat at leaſt " in a year, *i. e.* 1 qr. 0 b. 2 p. The ration of e- " very ſoldier is the ſame, a pound and a half be- " ſides meat and wine.

" The cavalry are furniſhed, even on the march, " with 36 ounces of Bread per day, *i e.* 1 qr. 4 b. " 3 p. beſides two pounds of meat, and a pint and " half of wine. They conſume each three ſetiers " on this footing. The *Quinze vingts* * who had " formerly four, have now only three ſetiers.

It

* A ſort of hoſpital at *Paris* for blind men and women, both married and ſingle, who beg in the churches and ſtreets. *Richelet.*

§. 10. It appears that our ſoldiers have alſo one pound and a half of Bread a day when encamped, and that the priſoners in ſome goals ‡ have the ſame, both theſe are *brown* bread made ſometimes with the Bran taken out, and ſometimes with it left in, ſuppoſe half of each ſort, and then the conſumption is about 1 qr. 1 b. per head yearly.

§. 11. In the Royal Hoſpitals, at *Chelſea* and *Greenwich*, the allowance is one pound per head a day of *wheaten* Bread which it is ſaid will go as far as a larger quantity of brown, *i. e.* 7 b. of Wheat a year.

§. 12. From the inſpection of the accounts of a pariſh workhouſe, within five miles of *London*, for ſeven years †, it appears that they have conſumed on the average ſix pounds of Bread per head weekly; *i. e.* ſix buſhels of Wheat a year.

A

‡ In *London* the priſoners have of Wheaten Bread only one penny loaf per day, and in ſome other goals one three penny loaf every two days; conſequently theſe allowances vary according to the price of Wheat, when Wheat is 4s. a buſhel the firſt is 11 oz. and the laſt ſixteen.

† *Viz.* from *March*, 1753 to *March* 1760, and the numbers and ages of the poor on the average were as follows not exceeding *ten* years 15, *ten* to *thirty* 10, *thirty* to *fifty* 13, *fifty* to *ſeventy* 31, *ſeventy* and upwards 5; in the whole *ſeventy four*.

§. 13. A Baker says, "When I was an apprentice in the country, we served two "single men who were *shepherds*, who "constantly eat the one five quartern loaves and the "other four every week, *i. e.* 2 qrs. 3b. 2p. per "annum each."

§. 14. Two Citizens of *London*, the one a Jeweller and the other a Printer, say, the first, that he hath ten in family, of which seven are apprentices, that their weekly consumption of Bread and Flour is seven half peck loaves, *i. e.* 6b. 2p. per head, per annum, the second that he hath six in family, four of which are apprentices, and that his weekly expence of Bread and Flour is six half peck loaves, *i. e.* 1 qr. 2 p. per head per annum.

The medium of these two might be taken for the average of the Bread consumed by the labouring people in *London*, *i. e.* 7b. 2p. but *deduct* the two pecks, and call it only seven bushels.

§. 15. Two Farmers, who live in *Essex*, in such a situation, that what they and their servants eat at market at least equals what their visitors eat in their houses, consume in their families, which together consist of seventeen persons, in Flour annually 24 sacks, *i. e.* 1 qr. 1 b. $1\frac{1}{2}$ p. per head.

And it appears upon enquiry, from the quantity of *Bread* Corn ground at a mill in the country for several families there that they consume about the like quantity per head.

Extract of a Letter from *Newcaſtle*
§. 16. upon *Tyne*, *Oct.* 1765.

" With regard to the quantity of Rye " which will ſerve one man in Bread for one year, " the moſt exact calculation I can get is as fol- " lows,

" A labouring man generally eats in a week as " much Rye Bread as coſts him 1s. 3d. which " weighs 20lb. 10 oz. and I am informed a *Win-* " *cheſter* buſhel of Rye when baked weighs four " ſtone, ſo that at that rate a man will eat in a year " nineteen buſhels of Rye, 2 qrs. 3 b. See the note at the end of the next Section.

" That kind of Grain is not ſo much uſed now " amongſt the poorer ſort of people as formerly; " for almoſt all the pitmen and thoſe labouring men " that earn above nine or ten ſhillings a weak eat " Wheaten-bread, ſo that I reckon only one *half* " of the labouring people in this country are now " fed with Rye."

Upon receipt of the above a requeſt was made to know what quantity of Wheat a man conſumed, and the following anſwer returned.

" The Wheat-bread moſt in uſe a-
§. 17. " mongſt the labouring people, is what
" we call Houſhold-bread made of 1ſt,
" 2d, 3d, and 4th Flour all mixed together, a la-
" bouring man will eat of this Bread in a week as
" much as coſts him 1s. 9d. which weighs accord-
" ing to the preſent ſtandard 18lb. 11½oz. and ac-
" cording to the beſt information I can get a buſhel
" of Wheat, *Winchester* meaſure, produces of Flour
3ſt.

" 3ft. 5lb. weight, and it gains when baked into " Bread 6lb. which makes 3ft. 11lb. in Bread. " At this rate I reckon a man will eat in a year 18$\frac{1}{4}$b. " of Wheat, 2qrs. 2b. 1p.

	ft.	lb.
" One Buſhel of *good* Wheat	4	7
" Deduct for Bran and Meal " when ground	1	2
	3	5 neat Flour."

Note, This writer is extremely exact, the only error he falls into, is one common to the moſt accurate writers, *viz.* the taking for his calculations the weights of the *beſt* Wheat and Rye, which is 6lb. above the average, and conſequently, we ſhould call the firſt 2qrs. 5b. and the ſecond 2qrs. 4b. 0 p.$\frac{1}{2}$.

In order to make what hath been ſaid intelligible, let us bring the ſame under one view, by giving

§. 19. *A* LIST *of the foregoing accounts, beginning with the leaſt and correcting* Hume's *account of the* Romans, *and the account from* Recherche de monnoie, *of the* Tuſcans, *by* Arbuthnot.

Section	qrs.	b.	p.
3 *Brackenridge*'s average	0	3	0
2 *Maitland*'s ditto	0	5	2
12 Workhouſe	0	6	0
14 Citizens	0	7	0
11 Hoſpitals wheaten	0	7	0
9 *French* priſoners and ſoldiers	1	0	2
3 *Brackenridge*'s labourers	1	1	0

Section					qrs.	b.	p.
10	Our soldiers and prisoners				1	1	0
15	Farmers and Families				1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$
8	Average of *French* nation				1	4	3
8	Domesticks of *Paris*				1	4	3
9	*French* Cavalry and Quinze Vingt				1	4	3
8	Ditto labourers				1	4	3
7	*Italians* 0 7 1	by *Arbuthnot*			1	7	0
4	*Romans* 1 2 0				1	7	1
8	*French* eaters of new Bread				2	1	0
8	Ditto porters				2	1	0
7	Ditto peasants				2	3	0
5	*Athenians*				2	3	2
13	*English* shepherds				2	3	2
17	Ditto pitmen				2	4	0
	Note, All the above are Wheat.						
5	*Scotch* labourers	Oats			4	7	0
6	*Lancashire* ditto				3	2	0
17	Pitmen Rye				2	5	0

§. 20. From the several accounts thus placed, however trifling they may seem, there is reason to conclude, that the quantity of Corn consumed by the most laborious part of mankind hath been in all places, and at all times nearly the same, varying only according as the quantity of other food was more or less.

§. 21. And from the said accounts may also be formed some calculation of what the annual quantities of Wheat, Rye, and Oats are on the average which each person consumes in *England*.

And

And, firſt as to Wheat, Dr. *Brackenridge*'s three buſhels is ſo much below any account we ever found confirmed by facts, that it ought to be left quite out of the queſtion. Our *ſhepherds* and *pitmen* conſume ſo much above the common rate, that too much regard ſhould not be paid to the accounts of what they eat, though very well atteſted. Mr. *Maitland*'s account is given after ſo careful an enquiry, that it ought not to be entirely diſregarded; but it is only a calculation founded on opinion, and it is moſt probable that both the Workhouſe account, conſidering the ſort of people maintained there, and the account of the Citizens, conſidering the quantity of other proviſions, it is moſt likely their families eat, are below the average of the conſumption in *London:* for, beſides that they are barely equal to the conſumption in the hoſpitals, it muſt be ſuppoſed that much the greater part of the people do much harder labour and are not otherwiſe ſo well fed.

Dr. *Brackenridge*'s account of labourers in the country, which is given from his own obſervation, agrees ſo well with the allowance to our ſoldiers and priſoners, and with the conſumption of the farmers and families in the country, which are found, after repeated enquiries, to be juſt, that it might very reaſonably be taken for the average of the conſumption of *all* eaters of Wheat, more eſpecially when it is remembered how much the greater part of the people are in the ſtate of life he mentions, and how much more our *ſhepherds* and *pitmen* eat.

However, that reſpect may be paid where it is due, let us ſuppoſe the whole number of men, women and children who feed on Wheat to be divided in eight

eight parts, and that one part consumes according to Mr. *Maitland*'s, another according to the *Workhouse*, a third according to the *Citizens* account, two others as the Doctor's labourers, and the remaining three parts according to the farmers; and the average will be 1 qr. and something more as may be seen below *; but let us call it only the *London* or *Winchester* quarter, which although it is more than the general estimation is still rather below our opinion, and not two thirds of the consumption in *France*, even in *Paris*; and it doth not appear, there is sufficient reason to suppose we eat so much less, for our *shepherds* and *pitmen* prove themselves equal good Bread eaters with the *French labourers* and *porters*.

§. 22. As to Rye, there can be but little difference between that and Wheat, and it may be called 1 qr. 1 b. the *Newcastle* account making it appear not to go quite so far as Wheat.

* *London* and the Bills are generally esteemed about one tenth of the people, so that if we suppose three eighths to eat below what we have reason to esteem the average there, only two eighths at what appears the general average, and the remaining three eighths the next degree higher; discarding the rest, it seems very moderate.

	qrs.	b.	p.
One *Maitland* ———	0	5	2
One Workhouse ——	0	6	0
One Citizen ——	0	7	0
Two labourers ——	2	2	0
Three farmers ———	3	4	$0\frac{1}{2}$
Total	8	0	$2\frac{1}{2}$

§. 23. As to Oats, Mr. *Wallis*'s account, ſuppoſing it 4qrs. 7 b. of Oats, as it approaches that of the greateſt eaters both at home and abroad, it tends to ſtrengthen and confirm them; but, as we are afraid we do not fully underſtand his meaning, we ſhall content ourſelves with the *Lancaſter* account, and deduct therefrom 3 b. calling the average only 2qrs. 7 b.

§. 24. There could not be any certain account of Barley obtained, other than that of an old careful man, who hath occaſionally fed a large family with Barley-bread in dear times, and ſaith that he always found it as cheap to feed his family with Wheat as with Barley, unleſs he could buy the Barley at two-thirds of the price of Wheat. Now the average buſhel of Barley will weigh barely 49 lb. which is five-ſixths of the weight of Wheat, and if we allow one ſixth more for the deficiency of nouriſhment in Barley than Wheat; it agrees with his account, and we ſhould ſuppoſe the conſumption of Barley 1 qr. 4 b. per head; but as the family might not like Barley-bread ſo well, or be ſo careful of it as of Wheaten-bread, and there doth not appear ſo much difference between the other Grains, ſay 1 qr. 3 b.

§. 25. Having now done with regard to the quantity of Corn conſumed in Bread, let us conſider what quantity is conſumed in drink; and that made into beer appears to have been, on the average, from the account of the produce of the tax on Malt made for home conſumption for fifty

fifty years, beginning with 1703 inclusive, and ending with 1753 exclusive, as follows

Years		Averages*.	
from	to	qrs.	b.
1703	1713	2,959,063	7
1713	1723	3,542,157	2
1723	1733	3,358,071	2
1733	1743	3,215,094	2
1743	1753	3,404,026	1

The general average of which is 3,295,682 qrs. 4 b. which may be called 3,300,000, and still be a very moderate account; for, by Stat. 12 *Ann*, c. 2. §. 20. 24 bushels of wet Malt is to be taken as 20 b. dry, and we may suppose the Duty is sometimes evaded, and there can be no doubt but those families who have compounded for the Duties found their account in so doing.

§. 26. We are now to consider what quantities of each sort of Corn are annually consumed for other uses besides those of making Bread and Beer. In which we shall be obliged to trust more to conjecture than in the foregoing estimates, and yet it may be hoped, that from what will be said some general idea may be formed of the amounts of the annual consumption, and consequently of the whole growth of the several sorts.

As to Wheat, the Meal or Flour thereof is used by Distillers, Starch-makers, Paper-hangers, Stationers, Book-binders, Linen-printers, and Trunk-makers,

* The regularity of the amount of this tax may be taken as arguments that the numbers of the people have continued nearly equal.

makers, and probably by ſome others; It is impoſſible to ſay the exact quantity conſumed by all or either of theſe, but the whole annual quantity we eſteem at 90,000 qrs. the diſtillery uſing barely half that quantity.

As to Rye, the Meal thereof is uſed by Tanners and to fatten hogs, and many Peaſe and ſome Beans and Barley are uſed for this laſt purpoſe.

Maitland, fol. 758, ſays, 186,932 hogs are ſold annually in *London*, call this one fourth of the conſumption; and conſidering the hogs uſed for the Navy, ſay 800,000 is the whole conſumption of the Kingdom; allow theſe *two* buſhels of Corn each, the amount is 200,000 qrs. of which ſay, Peaſe and Beans 100,000, Barley 70,000, Rye 30,000, to which add for Tanners and other uſes 1,000, and the Rye, beſides for Bread, will be 31,000 qrs.

As to Barley, ſay the Diſtillers uſe 44,000 qrs. beſides Malt, which is accounted for before, to this add the 70,000 for hogs, and 3,000 for fowls, and the Barley uſed, beſides for Bread and Beer, will be 117,000 qrs.

As to Oats, the average of the quantities brought by water, and meaſured in *London* in 1752 and 1765 is ——	290,266
Brought by land not meaſured annually	20,800
	311,066
From which muſt be deducted, being for double the quantities of 179 qrs. 7 b. Oatmeal exported and 1,513 qrs. of Oats ſold *Victualing-Office* ——	3,385
Conſumed in *London*	307,681

Call the conſumption of the Kingdom little more than eight fold, and it will be 2,461,500 of Oats annually conſumed beſides in Bread.

No notice hath been taken in the foregoing accounts of Beans or Peaſe, a very conſiderable quantity of each of which is conſumed annually both green and in the Grain for the food of man, and in the laſt for the food of beaſts, and no inconſiderable quantity of Peaſe are ſhipped and uſed for part of the food of the Royal Navy and other ſhips, and of Beans for the Negro ſlaves.

It may be ſuppoſed that the Beans ſold annually in *London* for the Negroes is 20,000 qrs. that horſes eat 10,000, together 30,000, and if this is called a third of the conſumption it will make the whole 90,000.

The Peaſe ſold annually in *London* to the Victualling Office for an average of years hath been 4964 qrs. to private Biſket-bakers about 3000, the ſoup is ſuppoſed to conſumed 500, together 8464; call this a fourth, the amount is near 34,000 to which add the 100,000 given to hogs, and the whole will be 134,000 qrs.

The quantity of ſeeds ſold for oil in *London* annually varies very much, but it is ſuppoſed it may be ſet at 15,000, and to be about the ſixth of the conſumption which makes the whole 90,000 qrs.

Of the whole quantity of all ſorts of Corn and Grain annually grown, it is ſuppoſed, that *one tenth* is expended in ſeed for to produce the enſuing Crop, ſome indeed ſay a larger proportion is uſed for that pur-

purpoſe with us. And a *French* writer * ſays, *one ſixth* is applied to that uſe with them, it ſhould ſeem it cannot be leſs than one tenth; if it is more, the Export will ſtill be a leſſer part of the growth than it ſeems at preſent.

The foregoing accounts and eſtimates are brought together and ſhewed in every view, that ſeemed neceſſary to make them uſeful from page 140 to 146, and ſome ſhort remarks are there made on them, to which we cannot forbear to add, that from them it appears, we depend more *immediately* than moſt men imagine for our daily Bread on providence, whoſe gifts are ſo equally and regularly dealt out, that it very rarely happens, notwithſtanding the uncertainty of the ſeaſons, on which the whole in appearance ſo much depends, that the annual produce of the earth is not equal to the neceſſary ſupport and wants of man, provided he is not wanting on his part to endeavour to obtain it by a due application to that labour to which he was at firſt condemned, and from which he never can be diſpenſed with; for let him exert all his ſkill and abilities to the utmoſt, it ſeems impoſſible for him to obtain ſo great a ſurplus ‡ as to have it in his power to forbear to till the ground, even for one year, but that he muſt throughout his life ſubſiſt by a continual labour and conſtant dependance on him who hath promiſed that ſeed-time and harveſt ſhall never fail.

* *Eſſai ſur les monnoies*, fol. 19.

‡ He muſt be 34 years ſtoring it up in common Crops, and more cannot be expected; and beſides, the time it would take up, many other obſtructions, ſome of which are noted in the foregoing work, tend to render ſuch an attempt abortive.

CHAPTER VI.

Of the Houses, Inhabitants and CORN consumed in LONDON and PARIS.

IN the courſe of the foregoing enquiries, ſome accounts were met with, which, at firſt ſight, ſeemed to lead to the ſtating of a more particular compariſon of the numbers of Houſes and Inhabitants and quantity of Corn conſumed annually in *London* and *Paris* than hath yet appeared.

But a very little application diſcovered the miſtake, and from the judicious remarks made concerning thoſe two Cities, by the Author of the *Police of* France, part 5. fol. 123, it appears probable, that all the compariſons, which will ever be made, will be done with ſo ſmall a degree of certainty, that they will ſerve for little more than to amuſe, which is all that the reader hath to expect from the contents of this Chapter.

The exact number of Houſes in *London* and the bills of mortality could not be obtained; but in 1758 the whole number in *London*, *Weſtminſter*, *Southwark*, and the whole County of *Middleſex*, was 89,736, and if we ſuppoſe the number in the County of *Middleſex* out of the bills equal to that in *Surry*, *viz.* 14,721, the number in *London* and the bills will be 75,015, and each houſe muſt contain eight perſons to make the number of Inhabitants 600,120; *i. e.* one tenth of the people, which they are generally eſteemed.

According

According to the rule laid down by Dr. *Brackenridge**, which was founded on obſervation, of adding 2,000 for Diſſenters and Jews to the annual bill of mortality, and multiplying by thirty, it appears, that the number hath been from the year 1680 to 1760 on the average 766,090; *i. e.* above ten to a houſe.

Here follow the averages of the bills of Mortality for the ſaid time ‡.

Years from		bills		added		Inhabitants
1680 to 1700	—	21,566	—	23,566	---	706,980
1700 — 1720	—	22,685	—	24,685	---	740,550
1720 — 1740	—	26,990	—	28,990	---	869,700
1740 — 1760	—	22,905	—	24,905	---	747,150
1680 — 1760	—	23,536½	—	25,536½	---	766,090

We are unable to reconcile theſe accounts, but whatever number the bills are, or ſhould be multiplied, it will appear, if we truſt to them, that although the buildings are ſo much increaſed, yet the number of people are of late diminiſhed within the bills of mortality, and that from 1740 to 1760 there was not one eighteenth more than from 1680 to 1700, nor doth the deſtruction of the human ſpecies diminiſh but increaſe, for the births in the firſt period were as 681 to 1000, in the laſt only 638, as may be ſeen by the account.

An

* Philoſophical Tranſactions, vol. xlix. article 95.

‡ Note, Theſe averages are taken from the account publiſhed by *Gorbyn Morris*, Eſq. to 1750, and continued down to 1760 in his method.

An account of the proportion of the births to the burials in London, *&c.*

1680 — 1700	as	681	
1700 — 1720	—	721	
1720 — 1740	—	649	to 1,000.
1740 — 1760	—	638	
1680 — 1760	—	672	

Some idea may be formed how deſtructive the above difference hath been by the following account of the numbers which have been loſt by the deaths exceeding the births, *viz.*

	per ann.	total.
1680 to 1700	— 6,877	— 137,553
1700 — 1720	— 6,317	— 126,353
1720 — 1740	— 9,473	— 189,467
1740 — 1760	— 8,281	— 165,630
1680 — 1760	— 7,737	— 619,003

After the above was wrote, whilſt the work was in the preſs, we have had an opportunity to compleat the account for the laſt five years, ending *Dec.* 1765, and the average is

Deaths	with addition	Inhabitants
23,993	— 25,993	— 779,790

Births to Burials as 664 to 1000.

Loſs per annum 8,061, in the whole 40,305.

By the beſt accounts that could be obtained of the Corn-trade in *London*, the annual average of the whole quantity meaſured by the Meters for *ſeventeen* years, ending with 1764, was * 1,200,000 qrs. and two thirds of that quantity hath been ſold in Meal, Flour, Barley, Malt, Oats, Beans and Peaſe, with which

which the ſaid Meters had nothing to do, in the whole 2,000,000 qrs. of which* 150,386 qrs. 1 b. have been exported [1], and 28,053 qrs. 3 b. have been delivered to the Victualling Office [2], for the ſervice of the Navy. For theſe a deduction muſt be made of 356,879 qrs. being double their amounts by reaſon they have been meaſured twice, we muſt alſo deduct 70,000 qrs. for half that quantity carried coaſtways and laid up, which is alſo meaſured twice; alſo 300,000 qrs. for Oats, 40,121 qrs. for 20,060 qrs. 4 b. of Beans and Peaſe ſhipped off, 18,000 qrs. for the ſame eat by horſes at home, and 15,000 qrs. for ſeeds: all theſe deductions amount 800,000 qrs. and leave 1,200,000 qrs. for the ſupport of the Inhabitants in Bread and Beer, and for other uſes.

Great as this quantity appears it ſeems to be much under rated, if common report ſays true, *viz.* that more than half thereof is annually expended in drink.

If the drink conſumes 660,000 qrs. it is one *fifth* of all the Malt for which duty hath been paid, and the Citizens ſeem to drink more than their ſhare; for they are but about one *ninth* of the Beer-drinkers

[1] Export.			[2] Vict. Office.		
5,624	1	Barley	5,098	0	Malt
68	0	Malt	4,964	3	Peaſe
179	7	Oatmeal	2,109	4	Oatmeal
4,473	1	Rye	1,513	6	Oats
140,041	0	Wheat	14,367	6	Wheat
*150,386	1		28,053	3	
28,053	3				
178,439	4	double is	356,879	0	

drinkers, as it is reckoned that there are about nine hundred thouſand perſons in the Cyder Counties, viz. *Somerſet*, *Glouceſter*, *Worceſter*, *Devon*, *Monmouth*, and *Hereford*, and that *full* two thirds of them drink no Beer.

But pleaſe to remember that all theſe accounts are founded on conjecture, except thoſe which have an aſteriſk before them.

In one year, ending *Nov.* 8, 1765, the quantity of Oats meaſured was 316,416 qrs. In one other year, ending *Nov.* 8, 1752, the quantity was 264,117 qrs. ſo that the annual increaſe in the conſumption in *thirteen* years is 52,299 qrs. which will maintain 4,023 horſes allowing each *two* buſhels a week.

This increaſe in the conſumption of Oats in *London* is wholly attributed to the greater number of horſes kept now than heretofore, and one principal cauſe for their being kept, is the great improvements made in the roads, and as thoſe improvements are now become almoſt general throughout the Kingdom, we may ſuppoſe the additional number in the whole at leaſt *eight fold* that in *London*; and then, can it be made a query, whether the Land employed to grow food for the ſaid horſes is not one means of raiſing the price of black cattle?

That the number of horſes hath increaſed in *London* as above, is highly probable, for all the Oats in 1765, at the ſame rate of allowance, after deducting 46,416 for other purpoſes, will ſupport only 20,000, and all the Oats in 1752, after deducting 43,117, would ſupport but 17,000, ſo that the increaſe is only from ſeventeen to twenty, *i. e.* not from four to five.

The

The houſes in *Paris* 1736 were 28,571. But the Author of the *Police*, page 125, ſays, "That the "*French* Authors have calculated the number dif- "ferently, ſome at 30,000, others at 28,000, and "therefore he takes the difference, and putting down "29,000, and allowing, as the *French* Authors "pretend, 20 perſons to each Houſe, the number of "people would be 580,000;" but he obſerves, page 129, the bills of mortality there are leſs extenſive than thoſe at *London*; and obſerves further page 131, that the Boundaries of the circumference of the City have not been enlarged ſince 1724, the date of the laſt Edict, which circumſcribed the extent of thoſe boundaries: with liberty, nevertheleſs, of enlarging the Buildings contained therein.

And we are well informed, that ſeveral large houſes have ſince that time been deſtroyed, and in their ſtead, and in vacant places, many ſmaller houſes have been built.

The average of the Corn conſumed in Paris *in the years* 1729 *and* 1730, *in* French *and* Engliſh *meaſure, was as under.*

	French meaſure			*Engliſh* meaſure	
	muids	ſet.	boiſſeau	qrs.	b.
Wheat and Rye	81,241	10	4 —	528,072	1
Oats —	17,283	7	0 —	112,343	2
Barley —	2,699	4	6 —	17,545	6
	101,224	9	10 —	657,961	1

Note, The muid is *twelve* ſetiers, each *twelve* buſhels of all Corn, except Oats, and there the ſetier is divided into twenty-four buſhels, but two

of theſe buſhels are no more than one of the firſt *, The muid, as well as the ſetier, being the ſame in all, and as the ſetier is 4 b. 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ p. *London* meaſure, the muid contains exactly 6 qrs. 4 b. *London* meaſure.

My Author ſays, that allowing a muid, *i. e.* 6 qrs. 4b. of Oats to keep a horſe a year, there would not be found full 17,300 in *Paris* in 1729: it is to be obſerved that allowing double that quantity, the horſes in *London* in 1752 were 17,000, and in the year 1765 were increaſed to 20,000.

Such of theſe accounts as relate to *France* which are not noted to be taken from the Author of the *Police*, may be found in the *Eſſai ſur les monnoies*. from page 50 to 61, &c. which work contains many entertaining and uſeful conjectures.

We could have wiſhed to have been more particular, but it was not in our power.

CHAPTER VII.

Of the State of the Corn-trade in France.

THE Author of *Gazette du Commerce* in his papers of the 22d and 27th of *September*, 1764. No. 76 and 77, hath inſerted the following ſpeech made by *Mr. De Caradeuc de la Chalotais*, Procureur General, to the parliament of *Brittany*, on the 20th of *Auguſt* preceeding; when he carried into Court the Edict of the month of *July*, 1764, a tranſlation of which we have given page 165, requiring it to be regiſtered.

What

* See Police, page 101.

What the general State of the Corn-trade hath been in *France* for more than a Century preceeding that Edict may be ſeen from the ſaid Speech, the purport whereof is as follows.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to inform you of the moſt ſignal benefit with which his Majeſty can gratify his people, a liberty to trade in Corn.

After having permitted the free circulation in the interior part of the Kingdom, by his declaration of the 25th of *May*, 1763, the King grants by this Edict, which I bring into Court, the entire liberty of exportation and importation. He permits all his ſubjects to trade in all ſorts of Corn, Grain, Pulſe, Flour, &c. either with natural born ſubjects or ſtrangers.

You may underſtand this Edict, Gentlemen, as a preſage of the increaſe and improvement of Agriculture, which will infallibly be the ſource of the re-eſtabliſhment and proſperity of the Kingdom.

In ſhort, thanks to his Majeſty, and the Miniſter who manages his finances, the ſyſtem of prohibitions ſeems to be abandoned for ever: a fatal ſyſtem which forbids the ſubjects of the ſame ſovereign to lend each other mutual aſſiſtance, and cuts off between *France* and other nations that communication of exchanging ſuperfluities for neceſſaries, which is ſo conformable to the order of divine providence. Particular permiſſions, that uſeleſs reſource, which enriched a few private perſons at the expence of the nation, will not for the future diſcourage the Farmer. We ſhall no more be in fear of want, nor, which is almoſt as much to be dreaded, the too great abun-

dance of Crops. We ſhall no more fear, above all, exceſſive variations in the price of Corn, equally hurtful with ſcarcity itſelf. In ſhort, we may hope for *an equitable plan of taxations*, founded upon true and ſimple principles, the cultivation of the lands, and the augmentation of the riches of the State *.

I ſhall not ſtand, Gentlemen, to prove truths at preſent too well known, and carried to the higheſt degree of demonſtration by ſo many ſolid works, which are the produce of the knowledge of zealous and well informed Citizens.

Who

* From hence, ſays the ingenious Author of *The Laws and Police of* England *examined, &c.* printed for *T. Harriſon*, 1765; we may conceive, that the propoſals lately offered for promoting Agriculture in *France*, are not likely ever to be carried into execution, whilſt the Intendants have a power to raiſe the *taille reelle*, or Land-tax, from time to time according to the improved culture of their ground: whereas the Land-tax in *England*, tho' in ſome reſpects an unequal rate, yet being fixed on the original regiſtered value, the quota payable by each county remains equally the ſame, notwithſtanding the ſeveral diſtricts may be improved to yield a larger ſhare of productions, and which indeed, without ſuch a ſanction and protection, would not receive *any* improvement at all, page 32. And the ſame Author at page 57, after having referred to, and explained what is here ſaid, goes on, although ordonnances have been lately publiſhed for allowing a free export of Corn, at ſome diſtricts, and at ſome certain ſeaſons, yet how vain are all ſuch local and temporary expedients, whilſt the nature of their conſtitution will not admit of that general freedom of ſale, which, I have ſo often laid down, as moſt eſſential and neceſſary for promoting the intereſt of every Trade both at home and abroad. He then explains the benefits we have received from the Corn exported.

What this intelligent Author hath advanced, and *Mr. Chalotais* hath thrown out, may ſerve to abate our fears of the Effects of thoſe Edicts, but ſhould by no means put us off our guard.

Who is unacquainted, That it is the Earth only giveth riches, becauſe it only produceth and reproduceth annually a new Stock? That the ſale of merchandiſe is the only means to cauſe a circulation of money, which is only the repreſentation of the more real riches, the fruits of the Earth? That a State rich in productions, which it can ſell, will, neceſſarily, be rich in money? But let its Merchandize fail, or find no ſales, it feels infallibly the want of circulation of Specie, and falls into a languor which, in its effects, is equally bad as poverty. It is therefore certain, that the moſt uſeful of all political laws is that which gives the greateſt facility to the ſale of the productions of the earth. The neceſſaries for conſumption, taxes, even the trade of the nation, all take their riſe from the ſale of merchandiſe; therefore we cannot extend this ſource too much, nor be too careful how we ſtraiten it; if it ſhould be dried up, the evils of the State would be without remedy and without bounds.

I ſhall confine myſelf, Gentlemen, to a few ſlight obſervations, on the neceſſity of the exportation of the principal merchandiſe (Corn); they may appear unneceſſary, ſince his Majeſty hath eſtabliſhed its truth in a perpetual and irrevocable Edict, an Edict conformable to the prayers of the nation which obtained it, to that of the States of this Province ‡, to experience which is the inſtructor of man, to the ſentiments of HENRY THE GREAT, and the illuſtrious SULLY, to the opinion of all thoſe who have examined this queſtion without prejudice, and without

‡ Deliberations of the 1 *Feb.* 1759, 15 *Sept.* 1760, and 7 *Sept.* 1761.

without intereſt; an examination in regard to which no one hath hitherto preſumed publicly to contradict, either the reaſons, the facts, or the calculations.† But it is requiſite to encourage the timorous, to inſtruct thoſe who are not as yet fully informed, to remove all miſtruſt from the people. We have no reaſon to fear when we are laying down maxims which promiſe the good of the ſtate.

Is there any neceſſity by a long chain of reaſoning to prove, that to prevent the ſale of Corn is to prohibit the Cultivation? that ſuch prohibition hath made the profeſſion of a Farmer *in France*,* although the moſt neceſſary, the moſt unhappy of all the profeſſions in the State? That a free trade in Grain both within, and without the Kingdom, is the ſole and only means to put the Farmer and Land-owners in a condition to ſupport publick and private expences.

Let us not fear to deſcend to particulars; Experience is the foundation of all phyſical enquiry, calculation is the meaſure. We arrive at general maxims only by the knowledge of particular facts.

The neceſſary expences of every cultivation whatſoever are the ſeed, the plowing, the manure, the expences to harveſt, to lay up and to preſerve the crop. It is neceſſary that the Farmer make intereſt of the money advanced, wherewith to ſubſiſt himſelf and family, pay tithes, taxes and his Landlord, whoſe expences aſcertain the payment of the other claſſes of the ſtate, who being compoſed of neither Land-owners nor Farmers, live at the expence of thoſe who are.

The

† This ſeems to refer to the French pamphlets quoted page 72.

* *In France*, theſe words are here, and in many other places, inſerted to keep the reader in mind that what is ſaid relates to *France*.

The Earth doth not produce every Year the beſt of Grain. It muſt have years of reſt; it is neceſſary to take into conſideration good and bad years, and place to the account unforeſeen accidents, for they will not be wanting.

Now, in calculating theſe expences at the loweſt rate poſſible, it appears that the Setier of wheat is barely worth to the Farmer that which it coſt him; men well ſkilled in Agriculture have made the calculation, and deſire all Land-owners to make it themſelves: it is a work which relates to all Men, and in which all profeſſions are intereſted. The neat produce of the cultivation of the earth is the only ſource of the proſperity of a farming ſtate: to know exactly what an acre of land well cultivated will produce, in different kinds of merchandiſe, according to the difference of the Soils, is the fundamental problem of Agriculture, Commerce and Finances.

If the Farmer doth not gain all his expences, and wherewith to ſatisfy all charges, the earth will remain untilled, as more than the moiety in this Province doth; the ſtarving proprietor will be forced to ſuſtain loſſes and bankruptcies; the Farmer ruined, badly cloathed, and badly fed, will ſell his little property: he will take up with his indigent family the art of begging, too common, and which is a diſgrace to the Nation; the State itſelf will ſuffer; the Taxes will not be collected but with extreme difficulty, and with the greateſt rigor; And it muſt be acknowledged, that this hath been the ſtate of the Kingdom of *France* for more than an age: In every Province the Earth ſhews, in an infinity of places, the marks and veſtiges of a deſerted cultivation:

vation: houſes unroofed proclaim a deſertion and depopulation: the Cities and even the Capital are peopled with Poor, whilſt thoſe, who have ruined ſo many families and enriched themſelves with their ſpoils, make parade of a luxury which is an inſult on publick miſery.

There is moreover another principal which manifeſtly proves the price of Corn in *France* is too low, and that the Farmers are far from being in an happy ſituation.

The price of Corn ought to be in proportion to the value of every merchandiſe, and every kind of labour, which, after deducting the value of the material, ought to coſt more or leſs according to what is paid per Day to the workman.

It is manifeſt, that for about an age paſt the price of labour and merchandiſe are conſiderably raiſed *in France*. There is none that for fifty years paſt hath not experienced this.

The price of Corn, which is the meaſure of the whole, ſhould then have riſen in proportion, in the mean time, it hath not only not increaſed, but it is a certain fact, that it hath fallen conſiderably, and that it would require an age ago, a greater weight of Silver to pay for a Setier, than it doth at preſent.

In 1649, the Deputy of Mr.—— the Procureur General at the Chatelet, ſaid in his requiſition of the 6th of *March* to the Police, as a known fact, that Wheat was at 15 livres the Setier, a moderate price (theſe are his words); but, the ſame Setier hath this preſent year, 1764, been in *Paris* at 14 livres, and 14 livres 10 ſous. It was of leſs value in the neighbouring Cantons, and of neceſſity in the Country.

It

It appears by the account of prices kept at *Paris*, that it was worth 18 livres, 18 ſous in 1649; 26 livres, 10 ſous, 5 deniers in 1650: 25 livres, 13 ſous in 1651, and 24 livres, 18 ſous in 1652—then the price of Wheat hath diminiſhed very much ſince 1649, that is within 115 years; and it cannot be denied, that other workmanſhip and merchandize, wages, &c. have greatly increaſed.

What ſhall we think, Gentlemen, of ſo great a difference, when we reflect that the *mark* of ſilver was in 1649, at 28 livres, 13 ſous, 8 deniers, that is to ſay, at almoſt half leſs than at this day, *viz.* (from 1726) at 54 livres, 6 ſous?

The value of the Setier of Wheat, (in money at preſent in uſe) was during theſe five years on the average price, at 42 livres, 2 ſous; Theſe prices are calculated in *The Eſſay on moneys*, and in the treatiſe *of the Police of Corn*. Ought one to be ſurprized, after theſe examples, that his majeſty hath fixed the limits of the exportation at 30 livres the Setier, weighing 240 pounds.

It is then proved true to a demonſtration, that Corn is *in France* at too low a price, in proportion to the advances, to the charges and expences of the Farmer; in proportion to other works and merchandiſe; and conſequently to both public and private expences.

But to enable the Grower to receive back his charges and expences, that he may ſupport and pay all taxes; it is not ſufficient even that Corn ſhould be of a certain value, it is neceſſary that value ſhould be regular, the leaſt ſubject as poſſible to variations: if he is not certain of ſelling, and of ſelling every year for profit, this uncertainty deprives him of all ſecurity, and he loſes the courage to till.

Now, this was impoſſible under a Syſtem of prohibitions, under a Syſtem of temporary and particular permiſſions, often granted from Intereſt to importunity, ſcarcely every free from ſuſpicions.

A ſtate, whoſe Agriculture is under the direction of prohibitive Laws, can never cultivate but for its own neceſſary uſe, it can never by good, make compenſation for bad years, for ſuch a State is poor, when it hath a ſuperfluity of Grain, and it is poor when it hath too little: the ſuperabundance produceth ſtagnation, and the failure produceth want: one brings with it a vile price, and the other exceſſive dearth.

Theſe variations, the alternative of liberty and prohibitions, left the Farmer in fear, and could not fail to diſcourage him, becauſe he was obliged to ſell at any price whatſoever, to ſatisfy his annual advance. There is nothing but the conſtant keeping the ports open, and a free exportation of Grain, that can remedy theſe inconveniences. In time of great plenty that freedom will ſupport cultivation, becauſe the certainty of ſales either within the Kingdom, or to foreigners, will make both theLandlord and Farmer contentedly to ſee their riches lie idle in their Magazines. This confidence will make them eaſy, and prevent in unfruitful years the terrors of want, which often cauſes real want; The diſadvantage of expences in bad years will be made up by advantageous ſales in thoſe which are good, The poor will find himſelf comforted by the abundant conſumption of the rich, and by the circulation. He cannot live, if the rich doth not furniſh him with the means of ſubſiſtence, and the latter cannot furniſh the former

former therewith, if he doth not draw from the earth sufficient to pay those recompences and wages which are the reward of labour.

But that which ought to remove intirely all his fears of want, is that constant uniformity of the price of Corn which exportation will necessarily produce. The principal end of a free exportation is not so much to sell as to support the merchandise at the best price possible, to restore that equilibrium, which is supported naturally in the commerce of other merchandise.

The common price of Wheat through EUROPE varies but little; It is notorious, that it is never below eighteen livres the Setier * (that is twenty four, the Charge of RENNES) and that it scarcely ever rises above twenty two; therefore the average price is twenty livres. ‡ For

* By the *Setier* in this place is to be understood the measure, not that of 240 lb. mentioned before page 218, for that is the weight of the Setier of the *best* Wheat, and much exceeds the Average; the weight of the Setier from 1418 to 1700 played between 205 lb. and 244 lb. See *Essai sur les Monnoies*, folio 49.

‡ Equal to 33*s.* 6*d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ the London quarter. Now it appears, page 105, that the average price of Wheat for the last 79 years hath been 33*s.* 2*d.* $\frac{3}{4}$ at *Windsor*, that is 4*d.* below the general market of *Europe*, whereas before for 91 Years it was 38*s.* 0*d.* $\frac{8}{9}$, that is 4*s.* 6*d.* above the said general price. And that these *Windsor* prices are more to be depended on than could at first be known; is proved not only by the said average price of *Europe*; but also by the average price at *London* from 1740 to 1764, being found on inquiry to have been only six pence per Quarter less—and by the average of all the Wheat bought at the Victualling Offices at *London*, *Dover*, *Portsmouth* and *Plymouth* for the last 20 years, ending *Feb.* 18th, 1765, as appears by an account laid before Parliament, being only 32*s.* 6*d.* $\frac{1}{2}$! that is 10*d.* above the *Windsor* price for the same time; and this last sum will amount to about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ discount on the Bills, but we cannot well call it less than 5 per Cent. and then it will be found to have been six pence below the *Windsor* and to agree with the *London* price.

For an age paſt *France* hath not, as before that time had any ſhare in the general market price of *Europe* which is the higheſt price poſſible; and it is a notorious fact that the value of Corn in *France* hath almoſt always been ſince the prohibitions below the general market price. By what fatality ſhould we obſtinately perſiſt in keeping our merchandize below the current price between Nations, to loſe continually by all we buy of and all we ſell to Foreigners. We in 1748, 1749, and 1750, felt this by ſorrowful experience. From the time we unfortunately forbad the Exportation, our neighbours had encouraged and rewarded the exportation of Corn. They tilled with emulation, their fields were covered with harveſts; and in thoſe years of want, we who formerly uſed to ſell them Wheat, were obliged to pay them the tribute of that encouragement which they gave their fellow-citizens. In thoſe three Years, the *Engliſh* received from *France* 10,465,000 Livres.

The conſequences of this bad adminiſtration are, firſt, that *France* dare not cultivate more than her own wants require; and not being able ever to elevate her views above what is barely neceſſary, ſhe muſt infallibly often fall below, and conſequently remain expoſed to all the accidents of bad ſeaſons and ſhort Crops.

Secondly, that ſhe can never make her Corn an object of Commerce.

Thirdly that ſhe generally loſes, although ſhe may ſometimes gain.

In ſhort, that her Agriculture muſt continually remain in a declining ſtate, whilſt that of her neighbours becomes daily more flouriſhing.

France

France, if well cultivated, can never dread the ſuperiority of other Nations in any thing; and ſhe would have been but too happy, if by prohibitive regulations ſhe had not herſelf ſhut the door againſt the labour and induſtry of her own inhabitants. The time will come poſſibly, when every Nation, reduced to the exportation of its own growth, will be of value only in proportion to its extent, the fertility of its ſoil, and its ſituation. *France*, in all theſe reſpects, hath the greateſt advantages: She produceth Corn equal to the moſt fertile Countries; frequently for a year and half, ſometimes for two years, and yet is always in fear of want. There is no cauſe to fear that in ſcarce years, which is the ſame as to ſay dear years; Corn ſhould be exported for ſale in places where it is in plenty, and at a lower price: there is no foundation for ſuch fear only in the caſe when all *Europe* ſhall be afflicted with want. The facility of a free trade is a remedy as well for *Scarcity*, as for the *too great plenty* of merchandiſe, which is naturally carried where it is moſt wanted.

The Liberty of exportation is about to remove thoſe barriers that laid a reſtraint, which attacks the foundations of Society. The people will be no longer forbid to enjoy the fruits of their labour, Corn will no longer *in France* be a merchandiſe prohibited or conterband. We may give ourſelves up to the flattering hopes of ſeeing plenty revive, and by a neceſſary conſequence, a flouriſhing trade which always follows plenty of Merchandiſe.

Is it neceſſary to ſay more, Gentlemen, to eſtabliſh confidence and tranquility, when we are furniſhed with true principles we need never fear, but we ſhall draw juſt concluſions.— Objects

Objects of so great an extent, which tend to increase the revenues of the King, and the Nation, are not confined, as appears, to furnishing Bread for the markets; that supply, although essential, is only one branch of national œconomy, of which the Corn-trade is the agent and general spring; in as much as it impresses the motion of buying and selling on all the rest; nevertheless, as this is one of the most important points of the legislation, and that which strikes most forcibly on the mind of the people, it is right to make them easy in regard thereto, and to prevent their fears. There ought to be a constant proportion between the price of Corn and that of Bread, there are several Cities in this province where there is not, at least where it is not either enough known or exactly observed *.

A public regulation, or table is wanting, which should express what the value of Bread ought to be in proportion to that of the Setier of Corn, and I am preparing to lay such a Table before you.

It remains to speak to you, Gentlemen, of the restrictions laid by the Edict on the free exportation, we could have wished, that the Liberty had been entire and indefinite in all the Ports, that there were no limitation to restrain that liberty, that the exportation were exempt from all duties; because freedom only can extend and support the sale of any merchandise, and promote the consumption; seeing that the least obstruction stops the course; because the least duty on buying or selling (for they are both the same) is an imposition which dries up the source, because, in fine, the augmentation of the expences of transportation causeth the Nation to loose considerable revenues, and necessarily destroys its competition with other Nations.

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* Some lines relating to this matter are here, and in the following page omitted, as being only local.

But I do not mean to conſider thoſe reſtrictions, nor yet thoſe duties contained in the Edict, as matters of revenue, the Edict bears too much the marks of the King's beneficence and love for his people. Convinced of the truth of thoſe principles, which are there eſtabliſhed with ſuch force and dignity, he hath paid ſome attention to popular fears, which, tho' with little foundation, are natural to indigence. He perhaps thought prejudices, which had taken root by long uſe, ought rather to be deſtroyed by experience than authority.

It is then concurring with thoſe views to make repreſentations to him in this reſpect, which are for the good of the State.

To remove all uneaſineſs from thoſe who are not as yet fully convinced of the advantages which ſuch a freedom of trade muſt produce: his Majeſty hath thought proper to fix a price, above which all exportation out of the Kingdom ſhall be prohibited.

It is fixed at 12 livres 10 ſous the quintal, by the ſixth Article of the Edict, and it is there ordered, that when that price ſhall be kept up in the ſame place for three following market days, the liberty ſhall remain ſuſpended in ſuch place, and to reſtore it, application muſt be made to the Miniſter of the Finances. There is no inconvenience in fixing 12 livres 10 ſous, as we have ſeen by the average price of Corn in the general market of *Europe*; but have we not reaſon to fear, that ſome covetous perſons may, by ſome private practices, raiſe the price of Corn for a few days, to the end that the Port may be ſhut, and they take advantage of the fall in the price, which will neceſſarily follow the prohibition. It would appear then right, to prevent monopoly, that the export being abſolutely prohibited

prohibited, when the price ſhall be kept up at 30 livres the ſetier, or, that which is the ſame thing, at 12 livres 10 ſous the quintal during three following Markets; it ſhould be alſo reſtored abſolutely when during three Markets the price of the Setier ſhall be below.

It appears that in limiting the number of ports, a view was had to the advantage of having regular accounts of the importation and exportation: But give me leave to remark, on the other hand, that this regulation confines the good intentions of his Majeſty, and is even contrary to the Spirit of the Edict; for the principles which are there eſtabliſhed are true throughout, or not at all. To fix a certain number of ports is to favour a ſmall part of the ſubjects at the expence of the reſt, and to prejudice the greateſt part. It would appear more natural, that exportation ſhould be permitted without diſtinction from all ports, at leaſt, from all thoſe were there are Commiſſaries capable to keep a regiſter of exports and imports. We may venture to affirm, moreover, that the number of twenty ſeven ports throughout all *France* is too inconſiderable, that ſix ports for *Brittany* are not ſufficient, the fourth Article hath fixed eight for *Normandy*, whoſe coaſts are not ſo extenſive.

From St. *Malo*'s * to *Morlaix* there are forty or fifty leagues of Coaſt, where no ports are appointed, in which are comprehended the Biſhoprics of St. *Malo*, St. *Brieux* and *Treguier*, countrys which are as fruitful in Corn as any other part of the Province. There we

* Such readers as are acquainted with the coaſt of *France*, will beſt underſtand the force of what is here advanced.

we find the ports of *Leguay*, or St. *Brieux*, *Binic*, *Pontrieux*, *Treguier* and *Lannion*. From *Morlaix* to *Breſt*, eighteen or twenty leagues of Coaſt in which no port is mentioned. From *Breſt* to *Port Louis* twenty five or thirty leagues of Coaſt, where might have been mentioned *Audierne*, *Quimper*, *Pont l'Abbé*, *Pont d'Avoine*, *Concarneau*, &c. from whence much Grain is brought. Alſo *Hennibonde* and *Auray* between *Port Louis* and *Vannes*. *Croiſic*, *Rebon*, &c. between *Vannes* and *Nantes*. All theſe places are fruitful in Corn, and if there is no other view but to have entries, there are in all theſe Ports, even the ſmalleſt, Commiſſaries of the Ports and Harbours, Commiſſaries on duty, or Controllers, who may take the entries and duties, keep a regiſter of the importations and exportations.

If it is ſaid, that from theſe Ports the Merchant may tranſport to thoſe which are mentioned; beſides that it is a conſiderable increaſe of charges, the riſk of the veſſels, and of neceſſity a diminution of the value of the merchandiſe; it will be a ſubject of chicanery and diſputes on the part of the Commiſſaries, in regard to the quantity of Corn, Grain, &c. for the diſcharge of the ſecurity, and conſequently an embarraſment to the trade. Ought it to be neceſſary, for example, from *Paimbœuf*, which is at the mouth of the *Loire*, to go up that river as far as *Nantes*, to make an entry? or will the Commiſſary at *Nantes* be contented with that which ſhall have been made at *Paimbœuf?*

I add, that a liberty to go from every port would favour the *French* navigation, which is one of the objects which his Majeſty had in view, for from thence would ariſe an increaſe of navigation from place to place, and port to port; it is well known, that the coaſting trade is the ſchool in which the beſt mariners are bred.

It is true, that in order to encourage this navigation the Edict ſecures to *French* veſſels and mariners excluſively of all others the tranſportation of Grain: But to make a profit of this priviledge we have perhaps neither veſſels, nor Sailors enough. No one is ignorant that the price of freight in *France* is more conſiderable than with many other Nations, it is therefore thought, it would be proper to beſeech his Majeſty to give permiſſion to make uſe of all veſſels without diſtinction, at leaſt, for two or three years.

As to the duties which are eſtabliſhed by the ſeventh Article of the Edict, although they have no other view than to obtain an exact account of the Corn which ſhall be brought into the Kingdom, and that ſhall be carried out, the difference of one per Cent in the Duty of entry upon Wheat, and of three per Cent on Rye, and other inferior Grain, may appear extraordinary, in as much as in ſhort years, when only importation can take place, this difference would turn to the diſadvantage of the poor, who for the moſt part live *only* on Rye. In ſhort, the emolument which can ariſe from all theſe duties is ſo inconſiderable for the finances of his Majeſty, and the damage which ariſeth to his ſubjects is ſo great, by the immenſe diminution of the whole price of the Corn of the Kingdom, that we are perſuaded his Majeſty would be pleaſed to ſuppreſs them; or, at leaſt, moderate them, and order that they ſhall not be ever increaſed upon any pretence whatſoever.

I thought, Gentlemen, theſe repreſentations neceſſary: they have no other end but to accompliſh the views of his Majeſty, and thoſe tend only to favour our competition with other Nations in the Corn-trade: But we ought not to flatter ourſelves to ſucceed ſoon; whilſt the duties though moderate, the

fetters

fetters with which we bind trade, and the ſcantineſs of tillage ſhall continue to diſcourage; and our neighbours ſhall give encouragement to export.

So far Mr. *Chalotais*, what he ſays * of the general Average price of Wheat throughout EUROPE appears to be founded on fact, and his obſervation ‖ that except in caſe of general want throughout all EUROPE, there is no danger of too large a quantity of Corn being exported, when at a high price is very juſt; it can happen in that caſe only, and ſcarcely then; for as it muſt be ſuppoſed that every place will feel in ſome meaſure the general want, and Corn cannot be very cheap any where: every nation will at ſuch times be too much on its guard to be drained of the Corn neceſſary for the ſubſiſtence of the people; and the very orders which will be received, as they will chiefly be commiſſions for *ſupply*, and conſequently without limitation of price, will directly raiſe the market, and immediately give the alarm: however, it is a very proper argument to quiet the minds of the people. And the Author of *Reflexions ſur la Police des Grains en France, et en Angleterre*, §. in order to convince them that ſo much Corn cannot be exported from *France* as to be hurtful, whilſt other nations have ſo much to ſpare, gives ‡ the annual average of the exports from *Europe*, as follows,

Viz.	Setiers
England for 25 years average ———	† 1,020,000
Poland, *Dantzick*, the North and *Holland*	7,350,000
Sicily, *Barbary* and *Archipelago* —	1,630,000
Total	10,000,000

 That,

* Page 219 ‖ Page 221

§ At *Paris* 1764. ‡ Page 49.

† That is 552,500 Quarters: this exceeds the general Average, and falls ſhort of that of the laſt 39 year: But it

That is, about 5,417,000 Quarters *London* measure, and if the growth of *France*, as he says ‖ exclusive of the seed, which the *French* Authors set at about one sixth thereof, is 35,000,000 of Setiers, or 18,958,333 *London* Quarters, besides seed. What reason can the *French* have to fear that *too* great a quantity will be exported by *them*, when the exports of all *Europe* doth not amount to one third of their own growth: and as our growth, besides seed, † appears to be two thirds of theirs, our fears seem much worse founded, at least in common cases, and when the want is not general throughout all *Europe**; since the number of our people in *England* is never estimated at half the number of those in *France*.

CHAPTER VIII.

REMARKS and OBSERVATIONS on the foregoing COLLECTION.

THE Author of the foregoing collection thinks himself bound to acknowledge the many obligations he is under for the several remarks and observations he hath received relative thereto. The most material of which came after this Edition was near printed off, and consequently too late to be noted therein. The purport of them are, *viz.*

1. That the calculations are different in different parts thereof: let the reader please to esteem the papers as distinct works, wrote at different times, and take which he likes best.

2. That supposing certain OTHER general principles, OTHER conclusions may be drawn: the principle

it is near enough for general argument.

	Qrs.
Average of the last 39 years	598,448
General Average	487,411

See before page 113.

‖ Page 48. † Page 144. * See page 227.

ples here argued from are founded on Facts, which ſeem well eſtabliſhed; therefore they are not affected by OTHERS.

3. That many of the Arguments will not hold good in *all* places: theſe are meant only as *general* arguments for the whole Kingdom.

That the hint thrown out, * *that ſome are of opinion, that if Oats were to be charged* 5s. 10d. *till* 18s. is wrong, and no good reaſon appears why they ſhould not be imported at the preſent low duty; as the practice is of very great benefit in places where poor people conſume Oats in Bread. And there ſeems much more need to give ſome *public* encouragement for the increaſing the Growth of Oats at home, by a Bounty on that Grain when exported, or by a premium for the cultivation of waſte or heathy lands in Oats, than to alter the old ſalutary practice.

Further, it will be found when examined into, that though Wheat and Barley bear a much higher price in proportion than Oats juſt now, yet, this laſt article has been advancing more ſteadily for a number of years laſt paſt; and the Growth ſeems more and more unequal to the Conſumption; and if the Legiſlature doth not give ſome encouragement to this Grain, it ſeems probable, there muſt be an Importation of it in ſome parts of the Kingdom or other every year.

5. That the arguments for continuing the ſame Bounties, and payable to the ſame prices, are not to be withſtood: how then comes it that it is ſaid, § "that without any great riſk we might either continue "the ſame Bounties, but payable to leſſer prices, ſay "Wheat to 40s. and the reſt in proportion; or reduce "them, ſay one third, and continue to pay them to "the ſame prices as at preſent;" for though experience

* Page 48. § Page 91.

ence teaches us, that, but a ſmall Quantity of Wheat is ever exported when it exceeds 40s. even with the Bounty, and without it there would moſt probably be none, ſo that it might have no great influence on the Market; yet it never can be urged as a ſufficient reaſon for making an alteration in this reſpect *merely* becauſe no hurt can enſue, it cannot be ſuppoſed *any* Legiſlators will paſs an Act but with a manifeſt view of doing good; and not when the effects may or can be only nugatory, and can do harm.

6. That the making a compariſon of the prices of Corn, ſince with thoſe before the Bounty, § is going too far back; we ſhould not go further than forty years back, as there is a neceſſity that the manufacturer ſhould always have bread cheap, in order to enable him to underwork other nations, and becauſe within forty years he hath been loaded with many *new* taxes.

The matter under conſideration is to enquire, *if the Bounty hath done any good:* now how can this be known, but by comparing the prices of Corn before and after it took place.

As to the neceſſity that the manufacturer ſhould always have bread cheap to enable him to underwork other nations, and becauſe within forty years he hath been loaded with many *new* taxes; It is notorious that the Farmer and Landowner bear a full proportion of thoſe *very* taxes, which were impoſed, not to promote and protect Agriculture, ſo far as it regards the Growth of Corn at leaſt, but, to promote and protect the Sale of our Manufactures abroad: in order to obtain which, no reaſonable Expences ought to be ſpared.

And yet Wheat, when the prices thereof are compared either with thoſe of other nations, or with what our Forefathers

§ Page 105.

Forefathers gave for it in the laſt century, although money was then as dear again, will be found to have been cheap during that period.

What is there but Corn, and the labour of the manufacturer thereof, if the labourers in the field may be ſo called, that hath not conſiderably riſen in value within forty years? have the wages of the huſbandman been raiſed in proportion with thoſe given to other workmen? he cannot with the labour of four days ſupport himſelf and family a week.

Is it any reaſon, becauſe *all* other things are grown dearer, that Corn which *only* hath continued moderate ſhould be further reduced?

Perhaps it may not be poſſible to grow Corn much cheaper than it was on the average from 1726 to 1765, and yet there ſeems no doubt that if it can be done, it muſt be effected by continuing to give all proper encouragement to tillage and promoting a due circulation in the Corn-trade: At leaſt we may be aſſured that, with years of common plenty, under ſuch regulations it will not be dearer, and be one great means of ſupporting the neceſſary expences of the nation and without encreaſing, at leaſt in any great degree, the ſalary of the Huſbandman.

7. That the ſtating the average of all the years * is wrong: the dear years ſhould have been left out; and then it would not appear that Wheat hath been ſo much cheaper on the average ſince the Bounty took place.

This deſerves a particular anſwer.

It muſt be acknowledged, that had theſe averages been ſtruck with a view to point out, that the price of Wheat hath been ſo low that the plow is forſaken, and

* Page 105.

and the country left desolate, as in *France*; the dear prices should have been left out here, as the French Authors have done with great propriety; * for the Farmers reap very little, or rather no advantage from such dear years, as the shortness of the Crop does generally more than counterballance the advance of price.

But the people pay those high prices although foreigners only gain thereby and not the Farmer, and it is not what the Farmers gain, but what the people pay is the matter under consideration: and that before the Bounty, they paid more than they have done since, is an undoubted Fact; and yet our Farmers are far from those distressed circumstances as the *French* Farmers are said to be in, although they received on the average 19 *livres* a *Setier*, *i. e.* about 31*s.* 10*d.* a *London* quarter, from 1725 to 1745 †; whereas our own Farmers received, during the same time, only 29*s.* 10*d.*

Therefore the striking those years out by the *French* authors is right, and the leaving them in here is not wrong; and let it be noted, how often such dear years came round before the Bounty, to what they have done since, and to what height the prices sometimes rose.

The *French* find their Farmers cannot live by the present prices, and argue for an export to raise them: We find our Farmers thrive at the present prices, although lower than with them, and finding that they have fallen since the export took place, therefore we argue for the continuation thereof, as not only the most likely, but also the most certain means to keep them down: for it is inconsistent to think, that those who

* See *Essai sur la Police Generale des Grains*, at *Berlin*, 1755, Page 243, &c.

† See Police des Grains, 255. § Page 105.

who live in an exporting Country ſhould pay more for their Corn than thoſe who live in an importing Country: was any ever known to buy at a high price to ſell at a lower?

8. That the value of the gains and ſavings which have been made by the export are much under valued, § particularly, that there hath been Corn to the Value of 100,000£. or 120,000£. every year ſince the UNION carried to SCOTLAND, where it was prohibited before; which ſhould be added to the account: as ſhould alſo the Oats and Peaſe exported on foreign Veſſels to the account of Growth; but the accounts of theſe exports were never made up.

That the number of people, the quantity uſed for ſeed *, and the quantities of Peas and Beans are much under-rated: and conſequently, by not bringing them into the account, ‡ that the annual Growth is eſtimated much too low.—Therefore the Export hath not borne ſo high a proportion to the Growth as is calculated, and this confirms that it bears but a very little proportion to a *ſmall* failure in the Crop §.

10. That many people in *Wales* eat Oat-bread, whereas it is ſuppoſed, †there is none eat there; whether they eat Oat-bread, or that made of any other Grain is immaterial; the *whole* Growth willbe nearly the ſame.

That

§ Page 137.

* That one ninth for *England* would be nearer, for that in ſome parts a ſixth is uſed; and if the proportion was to be reckoned for *Scotland*, *one fifth* of the Growth will be found upon an *average* of the different Grains and years to be *under* the quantity that is uſed for ſeed, Wheat included.

‡ Page 144. § Page 22. † Page 158.

11. That eſtimating the whole number of Horſes§ eight-fold, thoſe in *London*, is rating them too high; and that ſuppoſing ‖, two quarters of Oats to make one quarter of Oatmeal is wrong, it will take two quarters three buſhels; *therefore* the Oats uſed for Meal is much under-rated, let this ballance the error in regard to Horſes.

12. That it is manifeſt from experience, that the old Laws, againſt Engroſſers, ‡ &c. do not anſwer the ends for which they were made, are not ſuitable to the preſent times, tend to diſcourage tillage by preventing a freedom in the Corn-trade, and whenever they are put in force, which they at any time may when Wheat exceeds 48s. always make the price of Grain higher than it would otherwiſe be, by ſtopping the circulation thereof; and not only cauſe, but alſo make more grevious the evil they were calculated to prevent. That therefore there ſeems an abſolute neceſſity to repeal them, and to paſs "An Act "to encourage Tillage and lower the price of Corn, "by regulating the Corn-trade in this Kingdom, en- "couraging the tranſportation thereof from place to "place within the Kingdom, and particularly from "the growing to the manufacturing Counties, ſe- "curing of the property and protecting of the per- "ſons of thoſe who ſhall lawfully deal therein, or in "any branch of the ſaid trade, and puniſhing ſuch "who ſhall be guilty of any male practices in carry- "ing on the ſame."

13. That ſince the Bounty hath had ſuch an effect as to cauſe Wheat to be ſo much cheaper, that it

§ Page 202 ‖ Page 128. ‡ See Page 49.

it " is become much more generally the food of the " common people ſince 1689, than it was before that " time, " * and it coſts Sixpence a week more to feed a poor man with Wheat than Rye, § it is inſiſted that, it is not only unneceſſary but alſo unreaſonable to continue to pay it as high as 48s. and it ought either to be paid to a leſs price, or entirely taken off, in order to keep Wheat within reach of the poor ; That is, as the giving the Bounty on Wheat hath made it cheaper than it uſed to be, ſo the forbearing to give it will make it cheaper ſtill.

Thus have we to the beſt of our abilities fairly ſtated the purport of every material *Remark* and *Obſervation*, both for and againſt the foregoing *Collection*, which have either been communicated to, or occurred to us ; and which it appeared neceſſary to lay before the *Public*, as the affair of *Corn* cannot be too well underſtood, or too maturely and diſpaſſionately conſidered under every view, whether it regards the growth and internal circulation, or the exportation and importation thereof, or the part we bear in the Trade thereof in *Europe*.

* See Page 182. § See Page 194.

FINIS.

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